THESIS

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT GROUP FACULTY RESEARCH CATALOG

by

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September, 1995

Thesis Advisor: Tarek K. Abdel-Hamid

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ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the information requirements for a faculty research catalog for the Information Technology Group of the Systems Management Department at the Naval Postgraduate School to develop a modular designed document with a flexible file structure for implementation as a professional hard copy publication and as an electronic brochure on the Worldwide Web. This application provides the initial groundwork for future enhancements of the electronic brochure and a framework for the development of Faculty Research Catalogs for other Curricula within the Systems Management Department.
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I. INTRODUCTION

This thesis designs, documents, and implements a Faculty Research Catalog for desktop publishing and the World Wide Web (WWW), for the Information Technology Management (ITM) Group of the Systems Management Department (SM) at the Navy Postgraduate School (NPS), Monterey, CA. Information was collected during a preliminary investigation of the ITM group's requirements for a consolidated and attractive reference of the group's information. The information obtained and problems identified during the investigation that led to the conduct of the thesis are presented and the scope of the project are defined. Alternatives, methodology, and feasibility are discussed.

A. BACKGROUND

The ITM group consists of 15 faculty members. The ITM group's focus on applications of computer-based systems within DoD/DoN environments involves research with advanced technology, application of existing technologies, and the development of new technologies providing the potential for development of more efficient and effective information systems within the DoD/DoN context. The ITM group is a unique resource for providing assistance to DoD/DoN agencies through its well-recognized competence and wide range of interests.

In addition to research, prototype systems development, and executive education, the ITM Group has the additional task of soliciting sponsors for current and future research projects. The more sponsors available, the more research
opportunities available to the faculty and the more opportunities for student participation in real world problem solving.

In today's environment with continued cutbacks in government spending, sponsorship of research has become even more important. Fewer and fewer projects are funded by NPS. Funding for special equipment and associated student travel is scarce. Sponsors provide money for special research needs and make research opportunities available for both faculty and students not otherwise possible. Expanding contact with potential sponsors is critical.

B. PROBLEM DEFINITION

Interviews with a portion of the ITM group indicated that solicitation of sponsors is initiated through telephone contact, word-of-mouth, referrals, and previous contact. There was no formal publication available for mail distribution. There was no single point that consolidated information on the ITM group's focus, current research projects, and past research publications.

Two past attempts to consolidate the group's information into a group catalog were unsuccessful. The information available about these attempts was limited and documentation could not be found. One interview indicated that in the first attempt only one file was used for all of the information and that updates allowed access to all the material in the file. This single file design limits update of information to one user at a time and increases the risk of unintentional data alteration and/or destruction.

Another interview indicated that correcting errors and making changes are difficult with hard copy printing and that hard copy printing cannot be updated regularly. There was
also a concern that maintaining multiple files for data separation, developing a flexible file structure, and interoperability between different word processing packages would not be achievable. Having the ability to edit individual text files with Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, or any word processor was required. Additionally, parts of the faculty information were dispersed in various publications such as the NPS Student Catalog, NPS Faculty Resume Catalog, and the Systems Management Faculty Information folder.

There were two primary obstacles facing the development of the catalog:

1. Overcoming the two disappointments of the past attempts. Each professor had to be assured that the catalog would be completed and printed. Each had to be assured that their input was vital to the success of the catalog.

2. Obtaining the required information for the brochure. Information for the catalog had to be provided by each professor in the ITM Group. There are 15 professors in the IT group. Each professor is constantly involved in research and continued professional development which require frequent travel, making face-to-face contact was difficult. Alternative methods of contact were: NPS guardmail, voicemail, and email.

C. SCOPE

This thesis is part of the SM departments effort to develop faculty research brochures for various disciplinary groups of the SM department for hard copy production and implementation on the WWW. Both vehicles will provide the desired consolidation of the ITM group’s information and the
required widespread dissemination.

The software system development life cycle (SDLC) will be used to develop both the hard copy and electronic form (to include: analysis, prototype design, final design, development, and implementation). Identical information will be contained both the hard copy and electronic document. Research issues are listed below:

- Identification of user requirements.
- Examination of existing publications which contain relevant information.
- Determine resources for required information.
- Determine which desktop publishing software package will provide flexible modular design capability.
- Examine procedures associated with implementing an electronic document on the WWW.
- Determine the most appropriate modular design for electronic implementation.

Deliverables:

- Information Technology Management Faculty Research Catalog in Hard copy form.
- Implementation of the catalog on the WWW.
- Software containing all files for future hard copy productions and WWW updates.
D. METHODOLOGY

Prior to development of the ITM group faculty research catalog, a prototype document was developed based on initial interviews with select IT faculty members. Review of other educational institutions' faculty research publications was conducted to determine standard presentation formats for educational institutions. This information was combined to develop document information requirements and preliminary document format. Review of the prototype document by senior SM staff and select ITM faculty members will define user requirements.

Following this phase, a request for faculty information from all ITM group faculty members through e-mail, SM guardmail, telephone conversations, and personal interviews was conducted. The focus of this phase was to develop the modular design and finalize the type of information that was included. Information acquired from this request was used to refine user requirements.

A second iteration was developed incorporating refined user requirements and design changes. This prototype was distributed for review by the ITM group for accuracy and completeness. Changes from this phase was incorporated in the final document design. Laser printed copies or computer diskettes were compiled and forwarded for printing.

Coding of the electronic brochure will began upon completion of the hard copy document. Research of coding techniques, systems' interfaces and link requirements to the NPS home page for the WWW was conducted prior to implementation of the brochure in electronic form. The brochure was coded using HTML and following the appropriate WWW format.

Requirements for self-maintaining software development were researched and recommendations for future enhancements
have been included.

E. FEASIBILITY

Feasibility of the project was determined by addressing the following four areas:

1. Economic Feasibility

There were no requirements to purchase additional software or equipment for this project. Software upgrades for the Ventura publisher are not necessary but generally cost around $300. Ventura allows any available text editor to be used to update the text which reduces the need for special text editor upgrades.

Costs associated with the design, development, and WWW implementation of this document was limited to the personal time and effort of the author.

Printing costs over the lifetime of the document are expected to be minimal because the document can be printed by the government printing shop, the Defense Printing Service located on NPS or at the Defense Language Institute (DLI). Government printing allows printing costs to be charged to the general SM account or each individual professor’s account. The printing facility at DLI has the ability to store the document on tape making successive printings simple.

If the document is maintained by successive graduate students as follow-on thesis projects, maintenance costs will be minimal. However, if a faculty or staff member is assigned maintenance, maintenance costs will be incurred in direct proportion to the individuals salary and the amount of time required to maintain the document.

The extensive use of pull-down menus, simple easy-to-follow dialogue, and a comprehensive user’s manual simplifies
training required to learn the Corel/Ventura Publishing software package and reduces or eliminates training costs.

2. Technical Feasibility

The technology necessary to conduct each phase of this project is available within the ITM group and the NPS main computer center. The hard copy design architecture allowed quick implementation on the WWW. A high degree of technical expertise is not required to interact with the system. Anyone having knowledge of the internet and the WWW will be able to easily access the electronic brochure.

Hard copy document updates will require:

- a desktop publishing package
- 386-IBM compatible computer with 8 RAM minimum
- Hard disk space necessary to accommodate the desktop publishing package
- 3 1/4" diskettes

3. Schedule Feasibility

Based on the findings of the preliminary investigation, the proposed system will be available as a complete working application and will include documentation by 15 September 1995. It should be possible to develop the hard copy document in four months and the electronic implementation in two months.
4. The Operational and Political Feasibility

The electronic implementation of the catalog will provide the department with the ability to update research information and publications regularly. This implementation allows access to anyone having Internet access. It provides a ready source of information to any potential sponsor and reduces waiting time for information. The modular design provides the potential sponsor with the option of viewing the entire brochure or specific pages.

The SM Department Chair and the ITM faculty members are supportive of this initiative.
II. REQUIREMENTS PHASE

This chapter discusses the requirements phase of the ITM Faculty Research Catalog's development. The purpose of this phase is to identify the specific data requirements to be contained in the brochure.

A. DATA REQUIREMENTS

Initially, interviews were conducted with the SM Department Chair, SM Department Associate Chair for Research, and two ITM Associate Professors. These interviews provided a general idea of the information requirements for the brochure. Seven primary categories of information were identified:

1. Input from the SM Department Chair
2. A general overview of the ITM group
3. Research in the ITM Group
4. The ITM research centers and laboratories
5. Faculty information
6. Research Sponsors
7. Faculty publications

This group was provided with samples of Research brochures from MIT, New York University, NPS Computer Science Department, and several other sources to select preliminary document formats.

A prototype document was constructed based on the information obtained from the initial interviews. The
prototype document was used to further refine user requirements. The resulting requirements are listed below:

- **Letter from the SM Department Chair:** This letter should briefly introduce the department, describe the department's curriculum composition, and provide a numerical estimate of faculty and staff. The remainder of the letter should focus on the ITM department: faculty capabilities, customer relations, etc. The Chair's photo and information through which to contact him should be included.

- **Overview of the department:** This section should discuss the current world view of IT, highlight the importance of IT within DoD/DoN, and describe the ITM group's research efforts, prototype systems development and executive education program.

- **Research in ITM:** This section should focus on the ITM group's current research efforts. Each professor should provide a theme for his research, a brief 25 to 50 word description, a short paragraph describing the professor's work in this area, and related publications. Professors pursuing multiple research areas, should provide information for each area. Suggested research themes: Software Engineering and Project Management, Model Management, Database Management Systems, Computer Networks and Data Communications, Decision Support Systems.

- **Research Centers:** This section should provide a description of each center or laboratory, current research topics, and a point of contact.
• Research Sponsors: This section should identify recent sponsors for the ITM group.

• ITM Faculty: This section contains more detailed information for each professor, but is limited to one page of information. Each page should contain the professor's photo, name, title, and a phone number. Each professor should provide: research areas, descriptions of each research area, the relevance of the research to DoD/DoN, and recent publications. There should be no limitations on the length of input. The limitations should be placed on the printed form. Once the document is formatted, professors should have the opportunity to modify their input to satisfy page constraints.

• Publications: This section should list all publications and assign reference numbers to each publication. Publication descriptions should be as complete as possible.

B. REFINEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

Requests for the desired information were made to each ITM professor. Each professor was provided a detailed description of what was desired and sample content format examples. Each ITM faculty member was contacted either in person or via telephone for clarification of the request. Feedback from the faculty was obtained via email, guardmail, or personal interview. Comments and suggestions were isolated and used to refine user requirements. The following changes were made:
Faculty: The names of the ITM group were listed on one page with their degree, degree year, issuing institution and the year of joining NPS. This page was placed before the individual faculty pages. Email address, degree, degree year and issuing university were added to the individual faculty pages.

Research Areas: Research categories were changed to: Model Management, Database Management Systems, Decision Support and Expert Systems, Software Engineering and Applications Development, and Networks and Communications. Specific research areas were placed under one of the broad categories. This change allowed each professor to more accurately describe his research.

Publications: Publications were restricted to 1990-to present and categorized by year. The serial number assigned was composed of the letters 'IT', a two digit year designation, a decimal point, and a number from one to n (where n is the total number of publications in the specific year). For example, the first publication in 1995 would be: IT95.1
III. THE VENTURA PUBLISHER

This chapter contains a description of desktop publishing and functionality of the Ventura Publisher. It discusses Ventura's multiple file format, framed based documents, modular components, and custom design information.

A. WHAT IS DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Desktop publishing (DTP) means assembling a finished publication from several documents and/or graphics that are usually developed in other, specialized applications using a computer. A more accurate term for DTP would be "computer-assisted publishing." [Ref. 1] The way it works is documents are created with word processors (WP), drawings are created using graphics packages, photos are scanned with scanners, and other items are acquired using the appropriate software package. The files acquired from the above sources are imported into the DTP program where they are formatted. The DTP puts all of the files into one publication. Indexes, headers, footnotes, cross-references, and table of contents are added as desired. A functional comparison between WP's, graphics packages, and DTP's is contained in Table 1.

A DTP is not a do-it-all publishing solution. The secret to using a DTP is knowing when to use it. When creating a document, use a WP. WP's have much more powerful editing capabilities and work better with text. Use a DTP when there is a need to ensure consistent styling in complex documents, precise typographic control in any length document, or additional formatting features in a composite document.
Word Processors | Graphics Software | DTP's
---|---|---
Create and manipulate text | Create and manipulate complex graphics | Strict typographic controls
Offer intuitive entry and quick processing of text | Manage text as a graphics element | Integration of elements from diverse sources
Provide text-oriented special features such as search, replace, spelling and grammar | Provide graphics-oriented special features such as color management and visual effects | Format-oriented special features such as powerful styles and automated formatting
Automatic text flow from a line, column, or page to the next. | Import and export a variety of graphics file formats | Precision control of text and graphics placement
Integrate with other office applications such as email | Integrate with Paint and image manipulation programs | On-screen layout and formatting of text and graphics
|  | Consistent, repeatable styles and layout in long structured documents | Features for managing long documents such as tables of contents, indexes, cross-references, pagination, and flexible numbering

Table 1. Functional comparison of WP's, graphics packages, and DTP’s.

B. VENTURA

The Ventura Publisher was chosen for the project primarily because of the need for modular design capabilities. Ventura allows each page of a document to be constructed as a composition of files which enhances modular document design. An example of this feature is the Faculty chapter. Each professor page contains an external graphic file, an external text file, and an internal file for page specific formatting. Modular design allows all information added to a document to remain in its original file with the original filename. Retaining separate files allows update of information by each
originator and provides greater protection of the entire document from accidental loss or destruction by allowing access to only the segment of the document that is being updated. This feature also increases data integrity when more than one individual is involved in data maintenance. Many desktop publishers do not include features that lend to modular design. In these DTPs the files that make up the document are merged into one file. For example, 20 files would become one file that included all of the formatting and all of the text. However, 20 files in a Ventura document remain 20 separate files and all of the formatting is also placed in separate files.

A second feature that Ventura offers is the ability to work in either a word processor or in the publisher for document update. This portability allows files to be updated by anyone having access to a word processor. Ventura's modular design and portability capabilities made it the ideal choice for developing the ITM Group's Faculty Research Catalog.

Another factor influencing the selection of the Ventura Publisher was its availability within the SM Department. SM maintains one copy of the Ventura Publisher in the ITM Multimedia Center and one copy with the SM Multimedia Specialist.

Internal and external files are mentioned frequently in this section. In each case, an internal file references the chapter file (.CHP) and contains instructions associated with that chapter. An external file contains either a graphic or the text for that page or chapter. A more detailed explanation of internal and external files is contained in Chapter III.

Ventura uses a system of file pointers and directory structures to keep track of files and file placement within a document. Unlike a word processor, it does not bring all of
the parts of a document together in the same file. It keeps track of each piece of a chapter by tracking the source and adding its own formatting codes to the original text files. These are external files as they are created outside the publisher. Separate files are used to store paragraph formatting information and text elements created inside Ventura. These files are internal to the publisher. The Ventura Publisher is based on three concepts: multiple-file format, frame-based documents, and modular components. [Ref. 1]

C. MULTIPLE FILE FORMAT

Most WP’s and graphic programs work on the single-file format concept. Everything that is brought into a document or graphic becomes a part of a single file. Most other desktop publishers work under this principle. Text, graphics, and formatting information are integrated into a single publication file. Under this process, the source remains unchanged when the single publication is altered. When changes are made to the source, they must also be made to the single publication file.

Ventura is different as it allows for modular construction of documents by using a Multiple-file format (MFF) and pointers. A multiple-file format functions more like an organizer than an integrator. It organizes the separate elements in the page layout and keeps track of the files with pointers. When text files are edited within Ventura’s MFF, the original source text files are actually edited. With the MFF you have the option of editing files within Ventura or within a WP.

Ventura keeps track of document assembly by creating a chapter (.CHP) file. The .CHP file contains all instructions
associated with a particular chapter. Full DOS path names are contained in the .CHP file. These path names are the pointers to the source files. One pointer in the .CHP file is used to identify the particular style (.STY) sheet associated with the chapter. Text files can be located in different directories and on different drives. A .CHP file contains:

- General layout and typography
- Chapter-level elements (headers and footers)
- A list of external text and graphics files
- Frame size, position, and formatting
- Location of frame contents
- One pointer to the chapter style sheet

Ventura tracks all chapters, .CHP files, by using a publication (.PUB) file. The .PUB file stores pointers to all chapters associated with a document and separate pointers to the table of contents and index files.

A publication manager (PM) is used to view and print a list of files for any chapter or chapters. The PM is also equipped with copy, move and delete functions for entire chapters.

D. FRAME-BASED DOCUMENTS

Within Ventura, frames are used to store all file contents, both graphics and text. The publisher tracks the contents of each frame with references to internal or external, text or graphic files. The use of frames is required. Each element of a document must be placed in a frame. All frames can be formatted to the user’s taste.
E. MODULAR COMPONENTS

This concept provides the user with the ability to mix and match document components as the user chooses. Changing style sheets, text, graphics in any chapter is easy. Ventura simply updates the pointers. Ventura allows all external graphics and text files to be shared between chapters by adding additional pointers. The same applies to style sheets, and other imported files. This feature makes Ventura extremely flexibility. [Ref. 2]

F. CUSTOM DESIGN INFORMATION

The style (.STY) sheet contains all of the custom design information associated with a document. It includes formatting information from internal and external files. Examples of formats that can be specified include the following:

• Type specifications: fonts, font size, colors, and style (bold, italic, or normal)
• Bullets and drop caps
• Overscoring, underling, and strikethroughs
• Ruling lines above, below, and around paragraphs
• Tab settings
• Hyphenation rules
• Horizontal and vertical alignment
• Text rotation
• Indents and outdents
• Spacing between lines, paragraphs, and words
• Line, column, and pagebreaks
• Page orientation [Ref. 1]
Ventura's multiple-file format, framed based document capability, modular components, and flexibility make it a powerful publication tool.
IV. DOCUMENT DESIGN

This chapter focuses on the hard copy and electronic document design.

A. HARD COPY DOCUMENT DESIGN

Hard copy design was focused around incorporating all user requirements and keeping printing costs as low as possible. Using a desktop publisher eliminated the cost of paying a designer or layout artist and the cost of typesetting. A four page document would cost approximately $800 for layout and typesetting. Based on this estimate, layout and typesetting for the ITM Faculty Research Catalog would have cost approximately $7200.

1. Overall Document Design

The contents of the catalog were arranged by the seven categories of information identified by user requirements. One chapter was allowed for each category of information. The chapters were arranged as follows:

- Chapter One: Message from the Chair
- Chapter Two: Overview
- Chapter Three: Faculty
- Chapter Four: Faculty Research Areas
- Chapter Five: Research Centers and Laboratories
- Chapter Six: Recent Research Sponsors
- Chapter Seven: Recent Publications
Review of faculty research catalogs from MIT and New York University lead to development of unique chapter designs that were complementary to every other chapter within the document. Items like ruling lines, fonts, font sizes, page width, photo placement, headers, and footers were designed to be consistent throughout the document.

Specifications for page layouts for each chapter can be found in Appendix A.

2. Message from the Chair

This chapter was used as an overall introduction to the catalog and was designed differently from the remaining chapters. This chapter was constructed using three files: an internal text file, an external text file and a graphic file containing the SM Chair's photo. The photo was placed in the upper left corner. Professional information was displayed in a framed box directly below the photo. Text was displayed unframed to the right of both the photo and personal information. A header and ruling line consistent with later chapters were used. One page was allowed for this chapter.

3. Overview

The primary focus of this chapter was to provide the reader with a complete description of the ITM group and their three areas of focus within a two page limit. Two text files were used for the Overview chapter, one internal and one external. Typesetting, headers, and footers, consistent with the overall document design, were used. The header design provided consistency with the Chapter One. The footer design provided layout consistency with the remainder of the catalog.
4. Faculty

The purpose of this section was to present a photo of each professor, list professional information, identify their research areas, describe their research areas, explain the relevance of their research to DoD/DoN, and list a few recent publications associated with the research described.

This chapter of the catalog was constructed using a modular design. It begins with a one page listing of all the ITM professors. This page was constructed using one internal and one external file. Header and footer designs provide consistency with the overall catalog layout. Professional information was tailored to fit the allotted space. The remaining pages in this section were constructed using one graphic, one internal text, and one external text file.

The information for each professor was placed in separate files allowing for addition or deletion of faculty as well as separate updates. The external text files and graphics files may be copied onto diskette. Professors can be provided copies of their individual files on separate diskettes. This design makes the document available to one or many for updating at any given time. Because the files can be updated outside of the publisher, there is less chance of accidental destruction of data. As mentioned above, internal text files contain document designs and must be updated within the publisher.

5. Faculty Research Areas

The contents of the Faculty Research Areas chapter were selected and categorized based on user requirements. The purpose of this chapter was to identify the ITM group's research efforts and provide brief descriptions of each. Research themes were used to identify broad categories and
specific research areas were placed into the appropriate theme. The broad research themes and the specific research areas were arranged as follows:

- Model Management
- Database Management Systems
- Decision Support and Expert Systems
  - Decision Support Systems
  - Decision Making in Dynamic Environments
  - Instructional Multimedia Systems
- Software Engineering and Applications Development
  - Software Engineering and Project Management
  - Software Reliability
  - Software Metrics
  - Application Development
- Networks and Communications
  - Distributed Systems and Computer Networks
  - Telecommunication Systems

The research information was placed in one external file. The information contained in this chapter was submitted by each professor in separate files, combined in a word processor, and imported as an external file into the publisher. Modular design for this chapter was not recommended because the large number of external files, initially twenty-three, left too much white space per page and increased the document length by seven pages. Placing all of the information in one file saves money in the short and long run. Each professor can still be provided with his specific input and a similar procedure to that used for construction
can be used for document update.

An internal file was used for headers and footers.

6. Research Centers And Laboratories

The purpose of this chapter was to identify the ITM group's research centers, explain why each was formed, list points of contact, and describe current research projects.

Two files were used, one internal and one external. Headers, footers, font style, and font sizes used were consistent with the overall catalog design.

Photos of the laboratories were not included in this version of the catalog but are recommended for future printings.

7. Recent Research Sponsors

This chapter gives recognition to sponsors of recent research projects and was given a one page limitation. Two text files were used, one internal and one external. Headers and footers used were consistent with other chapter designs. Font size and font style vary from the overall brochure design. The current one column design may need to be altered in the future to accommodate additional sponsors.

8. Recent Publications

This chapter is a composition of all recent publications of the ITM group. Publications from the Faculty chapter, Faculty Research chapter, and any additional publications that were provided by the ITM group are included in this chapter. Because of the combination of information contained in this chapter, it is recommended that future updates be implemented by one individual. Two files were used, one internal and one external. Headers, footers, font style, and font sizes used
were consistent with the overall catalog design.

B. ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT DESIGN

Electronic document design focused on implementing the ITM Group’s Faculty Research Catalog on the WWW. This was to be accomplished while maintaining the document’s modular design structure, maintaining document content, long term document maintenance, and maintaining as many hard copy design characteristics as possible.

The brochure was designed using the WWW page and link conventions. A page on the WWW is a document or part of a document. Relaying a central thought or topic focus. A link on a WWW page is a direct connection to another page. Links function like GOTO statements. When a user clicks on a link, a path is established to the page that is associated with the link and a new screen display of that page appears. If the link is on another host computer, the connection to that host is made automatically. Pages and links are referenced throughout this section of the thesis.

1. Overall Document Design

All of the contents of the hard copy ITM Group’s Faculty Research Catalog were placed in the electronic version. The electronic catalog was linked to the SM Department’s home page, which contains a complete listing of the SM curricula including the ITM Group. The ITM Group listing on this page provides the link to the electronic catalog. This selection is designed to take the user to the catalog’s Table of Contents page of the electronic version.

The SM Department’s home page was developed independent of the ITM Group’s electronic brochure and its design will not be addressed in this paper. The HTML code for this page is
provided in Appendix B to facilitate update of the ITM Group's electronic brochure.

All photos were converted to .gif formatted files. Pages were separated using horizontal ruling lines. A signature and status block was added at the bottom of each page. The following sections detail page design and file composition for each section of the electronic brochure. The HTML code for the electronic designs are contained in Appendix B.

2. Table of Contents Page

The Table of Contents page is the first page of the electronic brochure. One text file and 14 .gif image files were used to design this page. This page was designed to link to the remaining pages of the catalog, back to the SM Department's home page, and to the NPS home page. The Table of Contents page contains the following links:

- Message from the Chair
- Overview of the ITM Group
- ITM Faculty Research Areas
- Research Centers and Laboratories
  - Decision and Information Systems Center
  - Multimedia Research Laboratory
- Software Metrics Center
- Faculty
- Recent Research Sponsors
- Recent Publications
- Student Projects
- ITM Courses
- Naval Postgraduate School page
- web@sm.nps.navy.mil (signature block link)
- Return to the Systems Management Department Home Page
3. Message From The Chair Page

The Message from the Chair page contains one text file and one .gif image file. The photo was placed on the top left corner of the page with the professional information aligned along the right hand side of the photo. Horizontal rule lines were used to separate the header from the photo and main text. The text was displayed as the next section of the page. The address and update block was placed at the end of the page. This page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department's home page, and the NPS home page.

4. Overview of the ITM Group Page

The Overview of the ITM Group Page contains one text file and three .gif image files. Horizontal rule lines were used to separate the header from the main text. The text was displayed as the next section of the page. The address and update block was placed at the end of the page. This page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department's home page, and the NPS home page.

5. Faculty Research Areas Page

The Faculty Research Areas Page was split into the following five sections in order to parallel the hard copy design.

- Model Management
- Database Management Systems
- Decision Support and Expert Systems
- Software Engineering and Applications Development
- Networks and Communications
One text file and four .gif image files were used to design this page. The address and update block was placed at the end of the page. Each page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department’s home page, and the NPS home page. Five internal links were included in the page design to provide quick access to each of the five sections contained in this page. This section is contained in one file in the hard copy catalog. The design of this page facilitates future segmentation of files by the five sections if desired. Future segmentation of the document would decrease the risk of destruction, increase modularity, and increase update capabilities.

6. Research Centers and Laboratories

The Research Centers and Laboratories Section was split into three pages. Horizontal rule lines were used to separate the header from the main text. One text file and four .gif image files were used for each page. The address and update block was placed at the end of each page. Each page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department’s home page, and the NPS home page.

7. Faculty Pages

This section was patterned after the hard copy design by using an index page to list faculty members and one page for each faculty member. One text file and four .gif image files were used for the Faculty Index page. The address and update block was placed at the end of the page. The Faculty Index page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department’s home page, and the NPS home page.

Each professor page was composed of one text file and five .gif image files. Photos were placed on the top left corner of
each page with the professional information aligned along the right hand side of the photo. All faculty pages were linked to the Faculty Index page, the Table of Contents page, the SM Department’s home page, and the NPS home page.

Using one page for each professor maintains the modular design and offers alternatives for future file maintenance. It allows updates to be made from the SM account or from the individual professor’s account.

8. Recent Research Sponsors

One text file and three .gif image files were used to design this page. Horizontal rule lines were used to separate the header from the main text. The address and update block was placed at the end of the page. This page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department’s home page, and the NPS home page.

9. Recent Publications

One text file and nine .gif image files were used to design this page. Publications were categorized by year as in the hard copy catalog and year icons were placed next to each category heading for visual amplification. Horizontal rule lines were used to separate the header from the main text. The address and update block was placed at the end of the page. Each page was designed to link back to the Table of Contents page, the SM Department’s home page, and the NPS home page.
V. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation is the final step in the development process. The primary objective of this phase was to construct a hard copy and electronic version of the ITM Group's Faculty Research Catalog that consolidated the group's efforts and capabilities in a physical design that satisfies users' requirements. This chapter discusses how the hard copy and electronic versions of the ITM Group's Faculty Research Catalog were implemented. In regards to the hard copy version, this chapter discusses the alternative printing methods and identifies the strengths and weakness of each. For the electronic brochure this chapter discusses the WWW implementation.

A. HARD COPY DOCUMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the hard copy design involved physical reproduction of the document. The Ventura publisher was used to construct the finished product. Corel Draw 5.0 was used to develop the cover page for the document. Photos were scanned in and placed on the appropriate pages of the document. High quality laser prints (600 dpi) of each page were developed. The document was submitted for three separate printings to determine the highest quality and most effective way to print the document.

The first technique was reproduction of the high quality laser prints using standard photo copying equipment (XEROX). This was the easiest reproduction technique but yielded both unsatisfactory text and photo quality. The photos were of
poor quality and the printed text was faint and spotty.

The second technique used the high quality laser print with a document scanner attached to the printing equipment. This was an easy reproduction technique and yielded a higher quality photo reproduction and excellent text.

The third technique used the high quality laser prints but original photos were used to replace scanned prints. This technique was the most difficult and took two full weeks for reproduction. The print shop used a document scanner to scan the laser text and original photos. This method yielded the highest quality photo reproduction. This reproduction was preferred by the users.

This version was stored on tape back up with the print shop for future printings. The tape back offers update capability with full page replacement. Future document printings need only submit the request. A printed version of the catalog is contained in Appendix C.

Floppy disks were used to store all files associated with the document. This storage method will facilitate distribution of the files for annual update by the originators of the material. A laser printed copy of the changed pages will be submitted to the print shop to replace outdated pages on the tape back up. The document cover and the publications reference lists will be the primary focus for annual updates.

B. ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT IMPLEMENTATION

The brochure was coded for the WWW using the HTML Assistant and Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) 2.0 and 3.0. Each page was coded in accordance with HTML document design specifications and Naval Postgraduate School WWW standards while incorporating user requirements. HTML gives both humans and machines clues or incites about the structure,
behavior, and content of a document. It is a descriptive type of markup language. HTML is descriptive because it describes the structure and behavior of the document. [Ref. 3] On the WWW each screen that is displayed is referred to as a page. Each page on the WWW is coded with HTML 3.0 or an earlier version and designed to cover a specific idea or theme.

HTML has virtually unlimited linking capability. With HTML links can be created for locations within a document or to another document. Links appear as highlighted text in a different color from the regular text. Once a link is explored the link's color is changed for easy identification of explored links.

Page length is not restricted with HTML 3.0 nor are the number of files that can be used per page. Unlimited page length provided great flexibility in document construction allowing one page or many pages for each section of the catalog. By allowing multiple files per electronic page, HTML 3.0 provided great flexibility for maintaining the modular design of the catalog in the electronic version. The modular design also offered good security against accidental destruction of data as mentioned earlier.

The limitations encountered with HTML 3.0 were layout design limitations. HTML 3.0 has a limited capability for text display. This is because files in HTML are read by browsers and browsers are designed to read HTML files based on HTML established standards. HTML 3.0 is the current standard. When files are coded differently from the standards for a particular HTML version, the browsers interpretation is unpredictable. The file structure for HTML 3.0 is designed for one column text presentations. Photos and text headings are movable and have standards developed for different alignments and placement. Although HTML 3.0 contains paragraph justification features, there are no guidelines for
double column text presentations. Coding a document in a double column presentation, if possible, would be extremely difficult and would yield unpredictable results when read by different browsers. For this reason, the Faculty chapter of the electronic catalog varies from the hard copy design. It is presented in a one, vice two, column layout.

Next page links were added to the document. These links allow the document to be read page to page. Additional icons were added throughout the electronic version to enhance the document's visual presentation.

Written permission was obtained from individuals before their photos were placed on the WWW. All files associated with the document were placed in the IT Group's SM account on the NPS network. A copy of the electronic implementation is contained in Appendix D.
VI. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. SUMMARY

The ITM Group Faculty Research Catalog developed in the course of the thesis consolidates the ITM group's focus, current research projects, and past publications. The Hard Copy version is lightweight and ideal for distribution at conferences and seminars. The Electronic Catalog makes the Group's skills readily available for viewing and printing to anyone having access to the WWW. Both forms of the ITM Group Faculty Research Catalog provide a means of expanding contact with potential sponsors.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

During the development of the Electronic Catalog much thought was given to automatic update of each document page using self-maintaining software, automatic update of the number of accesses to each page, automatic Last-date-updated dates for each page, more sophisticated linking structure, and transferring each segment of the document to the originator for ownership.

Developing self-maintaining software requires a procedure that takes a flat file and parses it in search of keywords. The keywords are used to signal to the software where to establish new links and format structures. The UNIX utility, CRONTAB, can be used to set up a timer to activate the scan. Development of a self-maintaining software package for the Electronic Catalog would ensure that design consistency is maintained throughout the document and is the first step in
segmenting the document for ownership. Without this software, consistent page design across the electronic document would soon be lost.

Counters for automatic update of the number of accesses to each page are simple one up counters but would provide the faculty with statistical information regarding the exposure of the catalog.

Automatic update of the Last-date-updated dates lets users know the timeliness of the information that they are accessing. Unlike the hard copy version that is updated annually, the electronic version can be updated as the information changes. Automating this section keeps the date current with the information. Another essential feature for distribution of ownership.

Development of a more sophisticated linking structure would allow the user to link to a wider variety of locations from each page.

Transferring each segment of the document to the originator for ownership is the ultimate goal of the Electronic form. Once the self-maintaining software and the automated features are developed segmenting the document by owner can be achieved.
APPENDIX A: HARD COPY DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

A. GENERAL CHAPTER SETTINGS FOR ALL CHAPTERS:

Sides: Singles
Layout: Full page
Style: Portrait
Footers:

Left side footer:
Font: Toronto Bold 8 points
Text: IT Group Faulty Research Catalog

Right side footer:
Font: Toronto Bold 8 points
Text: Page number

Headers: None
Topography:
Windows: 2
Orphans: 2
Column Balance: ON
Pair Kerning: ON
All other: Default

B. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PAGE FRAME

Layout:

Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 11 ins Width: 8.5 ins
Origin: Vertical: 0.0 in Horizontal: 0.0 in
Margins Inside:
Top: 1.275 in Left: 1.5 ins
Bottom: 1.0 in Right: 1.25 ins
Margins Outside: None
Column: Number: 1 Width: 6.0 ins
Typography:
First Baseline: Cap-Height
Pair Kerning: ON
All other: Default

Text File: sponsors.ths
2. TITLE FRAME
C. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

1. PAGE FRAME

Layout:
Repeating frame: No
Footers: No
Dimensions: Height: 11 ins Width: 8.5 ins
Origin: Vertical: 0.0 in Horizontal: 0.0 in
Margins Inside: Top: 1.0 in Left: 3.5 ins
Bottom: 1.0 in Right: 1.1 ins
Margins Outside: None
Column: Number: 1 Width: 3.9 ins
Typography: First Baseline: Cap-Height
All other: Default

Text File: Chairltr

Paragraph:
Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Full
Vertical Justification: Top
Leader: Character: . at 46 points
Spacing: 2 points
Tabs: .5, 1, 1.5, 2 ins

Text Characters: Toronto Normal 12 points
Paragraph First Characters: Toronto 18 points

Spacing Above: 0.194 ins
Below: 0.194 ins
Interline: 0.194 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON
2. TITLE FRAME

Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 0.6 ins Width: 6.82 ins
Origin: Vertical: 0.847 ins Horizontal: 0.964 ins
Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Center
Vertical Justification: Top
Margins Inside: None
Margins Outside: Vertical: 0.0 ins Horizontal: 0.1 ins
Column: Number: 1 Width: 6.82 ins
Typography: First Baseline: All default
Text Characters: Toronto Bold 24 points
Spacing: Above: 0.194 ins Below: 0.194 ins Interline: 0.194 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON
Ruling Line: Position: below Thickness: 4.0 points

3. PHOTO FRAME

Dimensions: Height: 2.66 ins Width: 2.0 ins
Origin: Vertical: 2.047 ins Horizontal: 1.014 ins
Margins Inside: None
Margins Outside: Vertical: 0.098 ins Horizontal: 0.098 ins
Graphics: Half tone: default Fit to frame Maintain aspect ratio
Typography: Default
Flow text around frame: ON

4. PROFESSIONAL FRAME

Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 1.95 ins Width: 3.239 ins
D. OVERVIEW

1. PAGE FRAME

Layout:
Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 11 ins Width: 8.5 ins
Origin Vertical: 0.0 Horizontal: 0.0
Margins Inside: Top: 1 in Left: 1.5 in
Bottom: 1 in Right: 1.2 in
Margins Outside: None
Column Number: 1 Width: 5.8 ins
Typography First Baseline: Cap-Height
Pair Kerning: ON
All other: default
Text File: Overview.txt

Paragraph:
Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Full
Vertical Justification: Top
Leader: Character: . at 46 points
Spacing: 2 points
Tabs: .5, 1, 1.5, 2 ins
Text Characters: Toronto Normal 10 points
Paragraph First Character: Toronto 18 points
Paragraph Headings: Toronto Bold 11 points
Spacing Above: 0.194 ins
Below: 0.194 ins
Interline: 0.194 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON
2. Title FRAME

Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 0.924 ins Width: 6.834 ins
Origin: Vertical: 0.852 ins Horizontal: 0.847 ins
Margins Inside: None
Margins Outside: None
Column: Number: 1 Width: 6.834 ins
Typography: All default
Text: Characters: Toronto Bold 26 points
Spacing Above: 0.194 ins
Below: 0.194 ins
Interline: 0.194 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON
Ruling Line: Position: Below, Thickness: 4.0 points

E. FACULTY COVER

1. PAGE FRAME

Layout:
Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 11 ins Width: 8.5 ins
Origin: Vertical: 0.0 in Horizontal: 0.0 in
Margins Inside: Top: 1.275 in Left: 1.0 ins
Bottom: 1.0 in Right: 1.0 ins
Margins Outside: None
Column: Number: 2 Width: 3.152 ins, Gutter: 0.195
Column Balancing: ON
Typography: First Baseline: Cap-Height
Pair Kerning: ON
All other: Default
Ruling line: Above, Thickness: 2 points, Spacing: 45
Text File: covered.fac
fac_cvr

Bullets:

Alignment:     Horizontal Justification:   Left
Vertical Justification:   Top
Leader:   Character:       .   at 46 points
Spacing:  5 points
Indent: Left:  0.5
Tabs:    .5, 1, 1.5, 2 ins

Text Characters:

Toronto Normal 12 points
Spacing:  Above:  0.256 ins
Below:  0.0 ins
Interline:  0.162 ins
Grow interline space to fit:  ON

Typography:

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Min word spacing:</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max word spacing:</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal word spacing:</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vertical Justification: Max above: 0.354
Max below: 0.194
Interline: 0.0

Auto Hyphenation: OFF

2. TITLE FRAME

Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 0.861 ins Width: 6.5 ins
Origin: Vertical: 1.0 ins Horizontal: 1.0 ins
Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Center
Vertical Justification: Top
Margins Inside: None
Margins Outside: None
Column: Number: 1 Width: 6.5 ins
Typography: All default
Text:
Characters: Toronto Bold 26 points
Spacing Above: 0.162 ins
Below: 0.162 ins
Interline: 0.162 ins
Normal word spacing:
   Proportion: 1.0    EMS: 0.268
Vertical Justification:
   Max above: 0.194
   Max below: 0.194
   Interline: 0.0
Grow interline space to fit: ON
Ruling Line: Below, Thickness: 4.0 points, Spacing: 0.0

F. FACULTY

1. PAGE FRAME

Frame:
   Repeating frame: No
   Dimensions: Height: 11 ins    Width: 8.5 ins
   Origin: Vertical: 0.0 in    Horizontal: 0.0 in
   Margins Inside: Top: 1.275 in    Left: 1.0 ins
                 Bottom: 1.0 in    Right: 1.0 ins
   Margins Outside: None
   Column: Number: 2
   Width: 3.152 ins
   Gutter: 0.195
   Balancing: ON
   Typography: First Baseline: Cap-Height
                All other: Default

Text files:
page 5: Hamid.fac  page 10: Emery.fac  page 15: Schneide.fac
page 6: Bhargava.fac  page 11: Frew.fac  page 16: Sengupta.fac
page 7: Buddenberg.fac  page 12: Haga.fac  page 17: Sridhar.fac
page 8: Bui.fac  page 13: Kamel.fac
page 9: Dolk.fac  page 14: Ramesh.fac

Paragraph:
   Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Full
               Vertical Justification: Top
   Leader: Character: . at 46 points
   Spacing: 2 points
   Tabs: .5, 1, 1.5, 2 ins

44
2. PHOTO FRAME

Frame:

Repeating frame: NO

Frames are copied to each page, then photos are added

Dimensions:

Height: 1.575 ins Width: 1.520 ins

Origin:

Vertical: 0.785 ins Horizontal: 0.847 ins

Margins Inside:

None

Margins Outside:

Vertical: 0.177 ins Horizontal: 0.2 ins

Graphics:

Half tone: Default

Fit to frame: ON

Maintain aspect ratio: ON

Typography:

Default

Photo files:

page 5: Hamid.gif  page 10: Emery.gif  page 15: Schneide.gif
page 6: Bhargava.gif  page 11: Frew.gif  page 16: Sengupta.gif
3. RESEARCH AREA HEADER FRAME

Frame:

Repeating frame: No
Dimensions: Height: 0.250 ins Width: 3.1 ins
Origin: Vertical: 0.986 ins Horizontal: 2.625 ins
Margins Inside: None
Margins Outside: Vertical: 0.177 ins Horizontal: 0.2 ins
Column: Number: 1 Width: 3.1 ins
Typography: Default
Ruling Lines: Position: Below
Thickess: 1.3 points
Spacing: 0.1 points

Text:

Justification: Left
Name: Toronto Bold 12 points
Spacing: Above: 0.194 ins
Below: 0.194 ins
Interline: 0.233 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON

Typography:

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<td>0.160</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>0.268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vertical Justification:

Max above 0.194 ins
Max below 0.194 ins
Interline 0.0

Auto Hyphenation: OFF
4. RESEARCH DESCRIPTION HEADER FRAME

Frame:
- Repeating frame: No
- Dimensions:
  - Height: 0.250 ins
  - Width: 3.1 ins
- Origin:
  - Vertical: 1.978 ins
  - Horizontal: 4.350 ins
- Margins Inside: None
- Margins Outside:
  - Vertical: 0.177 ins
  - Horizontal: 0.2 ins
- Column:
  - Number: 1
  - Width: 3.1 ins
- Typography: Default
- Ruling Lines:
  - Position: Below
  - Thickness: 1.3 points
  - Spacing: 0.1 points

Text:
- Justification: Left
- Name: Toronto Bold 11 points
- Spacing:
  - Above: 0.178 ins
  - Below: 0.178 ins
  - Interline: 0.178 ins
- Grow interline space to fit: ON

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal word spacing:</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vertical Justification:
- Max above: 0.194 ins
- Max below: 0.194 ins
- Interline: 0.0

Auto Hyphenation: OFF

5. RELEVANCE TO DoD/DoN HEADER FRAME

Frame:
- Repeating frame: No:
- Dimensions:
  - Height: 0.250 ins
  - Width: 3.150 ins
- Origin:
  - Vertical: 1.978 ins
  - Horizontal: 4.350 ins
- Margins Inside: None
- Margins Outside:
  - Vertical: 0.177 ins
  - Horizontal: 0.2 ins
- Column:
  - Number: 1
  - Width: 3.15 ins
6. RECENT PUBLICATIONS HEADER FRAME
Spacing

Above: 0.178 ins
Below: 0.178 ins
Interline: 0.178 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON

Typography:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Proportion</th>
<th>EMS</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal word spacing:</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vertical Justification:

Max above: 0.194 ins
Max below: 0.194 ins
Interline: 0.0
Auto Hyphenation: OFF

G. FACULTY RESEARCH AREAS

1. PAGE FRAME

Layout:

Repeating frame: No
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Bottom: 0.820 in Right: 1.1 ins
Margins Outside: None
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Typography:
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Pair Kerning: ON
All other: Default
Ruling Lines:
Placement: Around
Thickness: 0.9 points
Spacing: 59 points
Vertical Rule 1:
Position: 7.65 ins
Thickness: 0.111 inches
Text File: composit.rsh

Paragraph:

Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Full
Vertical Justification: Top

Leader:
Character: . at 46 points
Spacing: 2 points
Tabs: .5, 1, 1.5, 2 ins

Text:
Characters: Toronto Normal 10 points
Paragraph first character: Toronto 18 points
Major Headings: Toronto Bold 14 points
Sub Headings: Toronto 12 points
Publication’s Section:
Headings: Toronto Bold Italics 9 points
Text: Toronto Normal 9 points
Spacing: Above: 0.162 ins
Below: 0.162 ins
Interline: 0.162 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON

Typography:
Proportion | EMS
---|---
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Max word spacing: 2.0 | 0.536
Normal word spacing: 1.0 | 0.268

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Auto Hyphenation: OFF

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Grow interline space to fit: ON

50
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Vertical Justification: Top
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Interline: 0.162 ins
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Grow interline space to fit: ON
Ruling Line: Below, Thickness: points

H. RESEARCH CENTERS AND LABORATORIES

1. PAGE FRAME

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Auto Hyphenation: OFF

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Below: 0.0 ins
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52
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I. RECENT RESEARCH SPONSORS

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Pair Kerning: ON
All other: default
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Paragraph:
Alignment: Horizontal Justification: Full
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Interline: 0.162 ins  
Normal word spacing:  
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J. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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- Margins Outside: None
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  - Max below: 0.0
- Grow interline space to fit: ON

Text File: Publical

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Below: 0.162 ins
Interline: 0.162 ins
Grow interline space to fit: ON
Major Headings: Toronto Bold 14 points

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</tr>
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Vertical Justification: Max above: 0.194
Max below: 0.194
Interline: 0.0
Auto Hyphenation: OFF

Publication Entries:
Magazines/Journals:
Publication Number
Authors
Title
Magazine/Journal
Volume Number
Number
Dates
Pages

Conferences/Symposiums:
Publication Number
Authors
Title
Conference/Symposium/Colloquium and Location
Date
Pages

NPS Technical Reports:
Publication Number
Authors
Title
NPS Technical Report
Department
NPS Serial Number
Date

56
2. TITLE FRAME

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Origin: Vertical: 0.542 ins Horizontal: 0.819 ins
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Vertical Justification: Top
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Margins Outside: None
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Characters: Toronto Bold 26 points
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Below: 0.291 ins
Interline: 0.292 ins
Normal word spacing: Proportion: 1.0 EMS: 0.268
Vertical Justification:
Max above: 0.194
Max below: 0.194
Interline: 0.0
Grow interline space to fit: ON
Ruling Line: Below, Thickness: 4.0 points
APPENDIX B: HTML CODED PAGES FOR THE ELECTRONIC CATALOG

A. SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT HOME PAGE DESIGN

<HTML><HEAD><TITLE>Systems Management Department Home Page</TITLE></HEAD>
</HEAD> <H1><img src="/images/nps_seal.gif"> Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, CA</H1>
<HR><pre>Systems Management Department
Phone: (408) 656-2472 Fax: (408) 656-3407
Code SM
555 Dyer Road
Naval Postgraduate School
Bldg: Ingersoll Hall
Monterey CA 93943
Room: 229</pre>

DISCLAIMER: This is just a temporary home page for the Systems Management Department in the absence of any other official department page. We take no personal responsibility for ensuring completeness of the information on this page.

The Department of Systems Management can be reached at (408) 656-2472.

<UL>
<LI> Chairman <A HREF="sm whip.shtml">David R. Whipple</A>
<LI> Overview of Systems Management Department
<LI> Research Centers
<LI> Curricula
<LI> <UL> <LI> <A HREF="sm/it.shtml">Information Technology Management</A>
<LI> Transportation Logistics Management
<LI> Transportation Management
<LI> <A href="#stone/contracting.html">Acquisition & Contract Management</A>
<LI> <A href="#stone/acquisition.html">Systems Acquisition Management</A>
<LI> Allied Officers, DoD Civilians, USA, USMC and USCG
<LI> Systems Inventory Management
<LI> Resource Planning and Management for International Defense
<LI> Material Logistics Support Management
</UL>

58
<LI> Financial Management
<LI> Manpower/Personnel Training Analysis
</UL></UL>

Go <a href="/early_bird/early.shtml">HERE</a> for the current issue of the Early Bird.  
Server statistics can be viewed here.  
Authorized users can go <a href="/auth_users">HERE</a> for more files.  
The Webmasters' Page can be accessed <a href="/webmaster/web.shtml">HERE</a>  
This document has been accessed 802 times.  
Any questions or comments: Please contact  
web@sm.nps.navy.mil</p>  
Last updated on: 10 Feb 95  
This server supports and utilizes Netscape (Copyright) enhanced extensions.</p>

B. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT HOME PAGE DESIGN

Information Technology Management Home Page  
Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, CA  
Systems Management Department  
Information Technology Management  
Phone: (408) 656-2472  
Fax: (408) 656-3407  
Code SM  
555 Dyer Road  
Naval Postgraduate School  
229 Ingersoll Hall  
Monterey CA 93943  

A NAME=local-top-of-page></A> <BR>  
<img align=bottom src = "http://sm.nps.navy.mil/images/early_bird.gif" >
C. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR HOME PAGE DESIGN

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  <!----------------------------------------------->
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  <BODY>
  <img align=left src="/images/harris.gif"> <H1> Message from the Chair </H1>
  <HR size = 10 > <BR> <BR>
  <address>
  <B>Reuben T. Harris</B>
  Chair, Department of Systems Management
  Code SM/HR, Ingersoll Hall
  Room 229
  408-656-2161
  DSN 878-2161
  Fax (408) 656-3407
  rharris@nps.navy.mil
  </address>
  <BR> <BR>
  <B>Welcome! I want to introduce you to the Department of Systems Management at the Naval Postgraduate School. Our department has the largest and most diverse faculty and student body at the Naval Postgraduate School. We have eleven different curricula, ranging from financial management to acquisition and contract management to information technology management. With over seventy full-time faculty and more than 500 graduate students, we proudly claim to be DoD's premier Graduate School of Management .</P>

  <B>This brochure is one of our ways of establishing closer connection with our customers present and future who are interested in Information Systems, one of our core areas of expertise. Over the past six years we have built one of the best information systems faculties in the world. The purpose of this brochure is to describe the faculty their accomplishments, capabilities, and aspirations and to showcase their achievements that have impactfully addressed a range of DoD's recent and current problems. To be sure, this group of professionals is impressive both in terms of their educational preparation and their demonstrated
commitment to advancing the frontiers of this important field.<p>

As you peruse the following pages, I'm confident that you'll be as impressed with the achievements and potential of our faculty and their graduate student advisees as I've been these past few years. As you skim through the narratives that describe my colleagues' interests and capabilities or as you review the summaries of our collective areas of expertise, I'm sure you'll conclude that we offer a research and studies-and-analysis capability that is difficult to replicate.<p>

Give me a call if you'd like further information on the Department of Systems Management and our abilities to assist you.<p>
<br> <hr> <br>

<!--Return to the ITM Catalog's Table of Contents Home page-->
<a href = "http://sm.nps.navy.mil/sm/it.shtml"> <img align = middle src = "/images/itm_logo.gif"> Return to the ITM Group's Home page </a>
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<!--Return to Systems Mgmt Dept Home Page-->
<a href = "http://sm.nps.navy.mil" > <img src = "/images/home_btn.gif"> Return to the Systems Management Department Home page </a>
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<!--GOTO NPS Home Page -->
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Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil
Page last updated:
</address> </p> <br> <hr> <p>

D. OVERVIEW HOME PAGE DESIGN

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<!-FACULTY RESEARCH CATALOG: OVERVIEW Section -->

<!----------------------------------------------------------------------

62
We are rapidly moving from an era of information scarcity to one of abundance. Until very recently, information technology was expensive, time consuming, and error prone; by historical standards, it is now cheap, fast, and reliable.

Because of these changes, the use of information technology often offers the most attractive means of increasing an organization's effectiveness and reducing its use of capital resources and personnel. The changes have been so profound that it is becoming common to regard the new era as the Information Age, in which information technology in all its forms becomes a fundamental determinant of a nation's or organization's ability to thrive in the Nineties and beyond.

The importance of information technology is, of course, widely recognized in the Navy and Department of Defense. For many technical, economic, demographic, and political reasons, the U.S. must emphasize improved quality rather than quantity in its military force structure. Applications of computer technology provide one of the important avenues for achieving such quality. This is manifested in the growing proliferation and power of smart weapons. Information technology is important not only in weapons systems; it is also an essential ingredient in improved command and control systems. Success in C2 warfare and C4I for the warrior is totally dependent on wisely deployed information technology. Any fundamental improvements in the efficiency an effectiveness of managing the military services for example, in logistics, human resource management, and financial control will almost certainly require the use of computer-based systems.

The most recent Defense Critical Technologies Plan selects 20 areas of technology that are regarded as the most critical in supporting the military needs of the United States. Information technology is a direct or indirect ingredient of almost all of these critical areas. Because of its leadership role in many aspects of information technology, the U.S. has gained an advantage compared to its potential military adversaries.

The Information Technology Management (ITM) group of the Systems Management Department of the Naval Postgraduate School consists of 13 faculty members. The masters program in ITM typical has an enrollment.
of about 100 students at a given point in time.<p>

An important distinguishing characteristic of the faculty is its focus on the application of computer-based systems, especially in DoN/DoD environments. Although their work frequently involves advanced technology, it is not only advances in technology that motivate the teaching and research of the group. It is, rather, the understanding of existing technology and the development of new technology that potentially makes it possible to develop more efficient and effective information systems within the DoN/DoD context.<p>

The ITM group provides a unique resource within the DoD. Its well-recognized competence and wide range of interests equips the group to provide assistance to DoN and DoD agencies in several ways. These can be broken down into 1) research, 2) prototype systems development, and 3) executive education.<p>

**Research.** In order to tackle the increasingly difficult challenges of implementing effective information systems, management in the private sector as well as the DoD and other government agencies needs to gain a better understanding of the issues. The unique character and scale of the DoD makes it especially difficult to implement successful systems. There is a lot that we do not know about how systems can be made more effective, how we can develop them more quickly and cheaply, and how we can cope with the organizational changes required. The research being conducted by the ITM group is aimed at dealing with such questions.<p>

The ITM group is well qualified to engage in multi-disciplinary research aimed at dealing with difficult problems recognized as important by the leadership of a DoN or DoD agency. The group is most effective in dealing with challenging research tasks that require deep technical competence, viewpoints drawn from multiple disciplines, and effort spread over a number of months or even a few years. Faculty members are motivated to publish the results of their research as contributions to technical and management literature.<p>

**Prototype systems development.** Working as they do in an applied area, faculty members are generally interested in seeing their work put into practice. Although faculty members usually do not have the time to develop full-scale production systems, they can play a valuable role in assisting in the development of prototype systems that
demonstrate and verify concepts. Contemporary application development tools, particularly those available on microcomputers, make it feasible to undertake significant development projects. Once a concept has been demonstrated as practical and useful, it is then generally possible for an appropriate technical group to translate the concept into a working production system.<p>

The graduate students at NPS provide a valuable resource for doing such prototype developments. They are typically quite experienced in DoD matters, and have been well trained in information technology. Furthermore, they have received the kind of breadth in related areas such as management, economics, accounting, etc., required to deal effectively with real world problems. Each student is required to perform a research project and write a thesis that represents a significant piece of work. A prototype project of the type envisioned here serves as an ideal source of thesis topics. Working closely with one or more faculty members, a highly professional team of students can be assembled to deal with important ITM topics.<p>

<b>Executive education</b>. It is becoming increasingly well recognized that one of the critical success factors in applying information technology is to obtain executive leadership. The technical staff can be held responsible for developing good technical solutions, but the task of translating organizational needs into information systems specifications must come from the top leaders. That is the role for general management.<p>

In order to play that role effectively, an executive should know something about the technology and how it can serve the needs of the organization. Such a leader need not be concerned with strictly technical matters. He or she does, however, need to know the strengths and weaknesses of information systems, have a reasonable appreciation for the difficulty of implementing a system, and understand the tradeoffs involved in balancing the costs and benefits of a proposed system.<p>

The ITM group is well qualified to develop and present tailored executive education programs. It has wide experience in teaching in a variety of environments. Its special familiarity with DoN and DoD matters permits the group to use relevant and appropriate examples and case materials. It has the resources including graduate students
seeking interesting thesis topics to develop tailored material for a particular DoD audience.<P>

</BR> <HR> <BR>

<!--Return to the ITM Catalog's Table of Contents Home page-->
<a href = "http://sm.nps.navy.mil/sm/it.shtml> <img align = middle src = "/images/itm_logo.gif"> Return to the ITM Group's Home page </A> <HR> <BR>

<!--Return to ITM Faculty Home page-->
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<!--Return to Systems Mgmt Dept Home Page-->
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<!--GOTO NPS Home Page -->  

<address>
Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil
Last Updated On:
</address>  </BODY>   </HTML>

E. FACULTY INDEX HOME PAGE DESIGN

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<!--FACULTY RESEARCH CATALOG: FACULTY COVER PAGE -->

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<P><HR><P>

<H1> Faculty </H1>

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<UL>

<LI> <A href = "Admin/Faculty/hamid_unix.html" Tarek K. Abdel-Hamid</A>,

</LI>

</UL>

</BODY>

</HTML>
Professor (1986)*; PhD, MIT Sloan School of Management, 1984.

- Hermant K. Bhargava, Assistant Professor (1989); PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1990.
- Rex Buddenberg, Lecturer (1993); MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1986.
- Tung X. Bui, Associate Professor (1984); PhD, New York University, 1985.
- Daniel Dolk, Associate Professor (1982); PhD, University of Arizona, 1982.
- James C. Emery, Professor (1993); PhD, MIT Sloan School of Management, 1965.
- Barry Frew, Associate Professor (1984); MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1984.
- William James Haga, Visiting Associate Professor (1988); PhD, University of Illinois, 1972.
- Magdi N. Kamel, Assistant Professor (1988); PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1988.
- Balasubramanian Ramesh, Assistant Professor (1990); PhD, New York University, 1992.
- Norman Schneidewind, Professor (1971); DBA, University of Southern California, 1966.
- Kishore Sengupta, Associate Professor (1989); PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 1990.
- Surest Sridhar, Visiting Assistant Professor (1994); PhD, Vanderbilt University, 1995.

*The year of joining the Naval Postgraduate School faculty is indicated in parentheses.*
F. FACULTY HOME PAGE DESIGNS

1. Abdel-Hamid's Home Page Design

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FACULTY RESEARCH CATALOG: PROF HAMID'S FACULTY PAGE--->
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<P> <HR size = 5> <BR>
<ADDRESS> Tarek K. Abdel-Hamid
Professor
PhD, MIT Sloan School of
Management, 1984
(408) 656-2686
3991p@vml.cc.nps.navy.mil
</ADDRESS>

<H3> <U> Research Areas</U></H3>
Software Engineering, Project Management, Software Reuse, Dynamic
Decision Making, and System Dynamics

<H3> <U> Research Description</U></H3>
Over the last ten years, my research has focused on applying the
system dynamics modeling technique to study the dynamics of software project management. This has led to the development of a hierarchy of interrelated models to study single-project dynamics, multi-project dynamics (e.g., multiple projects sharing common resources), and organization-wide dynamics (e.g., impacts of organization-wide policies for software reuse). Through modeling and simulation, these models serve as experimentation laboratories to study software project management phenomena and gain a better understanding of the dynamically complex interactions and trade-offs that characterize software project management. <P>

In addition, the models serve as computer-based management support tools to evaluate/design organizational policies (e.g., setting software reuse goals, allocating quality assurance resources, etc.). The models are currently being used in more than forty organizations worldwide (organizations such as NASA, Hewlett-Packard, and Siemens). <P>

I am using my suite of simulation tools as experimentation microworlds to study dynamic decision making in the software management domain (e.g., study the impact of individualistic versus cooperative reward schemes on project resource allocations). I am also working on the development of intelligent tutoring interfaces to the system dynamics models of software project management in order to use them as learning laboratories for NPS students and DoD software project managers. (This is analogous to the use of flight simulators in training pilots.)<P>

Relevance to DoD/DoN

The impressive innovations in the technology of software production that have been made over the last three decades have not been matched by a corresponding maturity in the capability to manage the production of software. As a result, there continues to be too many project failures, marked by cost overruns, late deliveries, poor reliability, and user dissatisfaction. <P>

Recently, it has become more and more evident within DoD that in software, product innovation is no longer the primary bottleneck to progress, the bottleneck is project management innovation. <P>

Recent Publications


Hemant K. Bhargava  
Assistant Professor  
PhD, The Wharton School  
UNIV. of Pennsylvania, 1990  
(408) 656-2264  
http://bhargava.as.nps.navy.mil

Research Areas:
Decision Support Systems, Computer-Aided Modeling, Logic Modeling, Artificial Intelligence

Research Description:
My research is focused on the decision sciences, and involves computer-aided mathematical modeling, logic modeling, and artificial intelligence. My current work develops methods for using the Internet to allow global sharing of computer-based decision technologies. My general research interests include the modeling process, developing formal languages and systems for modeling and reasoning, and exploring the interface qualitative and quantitative methods for modeling and reasoning.

Research Projects:
DecisionNet

The DecisionNet project aims to develop software infrastructure that offers access to a globally distributed network of modeling and decision support systems. Using the World Wide Web, DecisionNet allows providers to publicize and make available their technologies to consumers who can search, connect to, and use them. The project investigates several issues arising from the creation of this electronic marketplace of decision technologies.
Integrated Modeling Environments

Computer-aided modeling environments are designed to facilitate the construction, exercise, and management of mathematical models for decision making. Representative topics investigated in this project are: Philosophy and principles of modeling; Embedded languages as an architecture for modeling systems; Extensions to formal modeling languages; Computer-aided model construction.

Post-evaluation Analysis of Mathematical Models

What-if analysis is a standard feature in decision support systems. We investigate how computer-aided modeling systems may be used to search intelligently and automatically complex decision spaces in order to find high quality policy options.

Fleet Mix Planning

Fleet mix planning involves determining the optimal mix of assets that an organization must hold in order to optimize its defined objective while satisfying environmental and organizational constraints. We survey methods for fleet planning, and develop models and decision policies for fleet mix planning in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

Professor Bhargava's research has been funded by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Army Artificial Intelligence Center, and by funds from DARPA/ASTO.

Recent Publications


3. Buddenberg's Home Page Design

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<!----Return to the ITM Catalog's Table of Contents Home page-->
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<br> </HR>  
<!----Return to ITM Faculty Home page-->
<a href = "http://sm.nps.navy.mil/sm/Admin/faculty.shmtl" <img align = middle src = "images/itm_logo.gif"> Return to ITM Faculty Home page </A> <HR>  
<!----Return to Systems Mgmt Dept Home Page-->
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<!----GOTO NPS Home Page -->
</address>
    Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil  
Last Updated On:  
</address>  
</BODY>  
</HTML>
<address> Rex Buddenberg  
Lecturer  
MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1986  
(408) 656-3576  
budden@nps.navy.mil  
</address>

<H3> <U> Research Areas</Ux/H3>
Computer Networks, High Availability Networking, and Radio-WAN Development

<H3> <U> Research Description</Ux/H3>
My research specializes in adaptation of commercial networking technology for military purposes with focus on maintained high availability. Military and civilian emergency services requirements for Computer networks generally include:

- High availability and survivability
- Extension of internetworks into radio-WAN environment to reach mobile platforms
- Security requirements that exceed commercial Internet needs.

My work focuses on these areas.

Radio-based WAN requirements impact protocol suites in different ways than conventional wired networks. Testbed and protocol design requirements in this area includes:

- Low interactivity networks
- Reliable multicast
- Mobile hosts
- Multiple data types with multiple QoS needs
Incorporation of one-way data feeds into networks
Fast setup requirements

Developing evolutionary action plans that allow incremental growth and real action with recognition that requirements are not well known or defined is required to achieve the desired goals in High Availability Networking. <p>

These two requirements lead to several contributory topics that include:<p>

Low Earth Orbit satellites
Wireless network technology development
Network management
Secure messaging
Network protocol architecture
Export education to USCG, NAVSEA, NRD on networking
Consulting and research work to NAVSEA (submarinesyscom), SPAWAR (Next Generation Computer Resources), NAVAIR (NavAirWide Area Network), and ARPA (network-to-fleet)
Program planning, prototype work for Joint Oceanographic Institution and Taking the Internet to Sea for the Oceanographic Fleet

My research project, Taking the Internet to Sea, can be found at http://vislab- www.nps.navy.mil/~seanet.<p>

Relevance to DoD/DoN
Continued operations and high levels of survivability are often required for today's computer networks. With regards to WAN's, taking the Internet to the fleet represents major improvement in C3I systems.<p>

Recent Publications
<UL>
</UL>
4. Bui’s Home Page Design

<html>
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<!--FACULTY RESEARCH CATALOG: PROF BUI'S FACULTY PAGE-->

<head> <title>BUI</title> </head>
<body> 
<p> <hr size = 5 > </p>
<img align=left src = "images/bui.gif">
<address>
Tung X. Bui
Associate Professor
PhD, New York UNIV., 1985
(408) 656-2630
</address>
</body>
</html>
Research Areas

Decision and Negotiation Support Systems, Implementation of Information Systems in Large Organizations

Research Description

My primary research interests include implementation of information systems in large organizations, group decision and negotiation support systems, crisis management support systems, and design of distributed knowledge-bases for organization decision making. My research has been funded by a number of DoD agencies (such as the Office of the Director of Defense Information, SPACECOM, NAVAIR, TRADOC) and international science foundations (such as the Canada Council for Social Sciences, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Hong Kong Science Foundation).

Research Projects:

Collaborative Multimedia Systems for Crisis Management

Given the constant change in economic and social conditions, the formulation of a comprehensive strategic plan to deal with crises is an ever increasingly urgent, complex task. The proposed project applies state-of-the-art collaborative multimedia technology to the design of computer-based systems that support crisis management.

Negotiation Support Systems for Inter-Cultural Negotiation

This research focuses on the design, implementation and evaluation of negotiation support systems to support intercultural, multi-language negotiations. This approach seeks to expand current research in the field of computerized group decision and negotiation to an international context in which cultural and linguistic issues constitute an integral part of the negotiation process.

Supporting Argumentation in Software Development Project

The purpose of this research is to develop an argumentation language
to support software development projects managed in a geographically dispersed setting and in an asynchronous mode.<p>

<h5>Design of a Distributed Decision Support System for Optimizing the Utilization of Military Satellite Resources</h5>

The management of military telecommunications services in a crisis situation requires ad hoc, quick planning and negotiation among different organizations involved in the deployment, use, and financing of satellite resources. This research proposes an enterprise-wide computing architecture to support a variety of geographically dispersed functional tasks yet centrally managed by SPACECOM.<p>

<h3>Relevance to DoD/DoN</h3>

My research directly impacts on the efficiency and effectiveness of the SPACECOM organization.<p>

<h3>Recent Publications</h3>


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<a href = "http://sm.nps.navy.mil/sm/it.shtml" >Return to the ITM Group’s Home page</a>
5. Dolk's Home Page Design

<html>
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</p>
<p>
</p>
<address>
Daniel Dolk
Professor
PhD, UNIV of Arizonia, 1982
(408) 656-2260
0541p@vm1.cc.nps.navy.mil
</address>
<h3><u>Research Areas</u></h3>
Model Management and Evolutionary Information Systems

Research Description

Decision making and application system development are two vital activities for organizations in the Information Age. Both processes depend heavily upon models as vehicles for representing the context in which decisions are made and systems function. Conceptual modeling is central to understanding organizational requirements for computing technology.

My research has been primarily dedicated to the development of computing environments which facilitate the representation, integration, and understanding of mathematical models for decision making. Much of this work has involved static models such as mathematical programming, statistics, and database design.

My current interest is in information systems as evolutionary artifacts which are rich in dynamic behavior. Understanding the interplay between organizations and computing technology requires recognition of the essentially nonlinear, feedback-based nature of the phenomena being modeled. I am particularly interested in approaching enterprise modeling from this perspective and am looking to recent advances in the theory of complex adaptive systems as a guide for providing more robust models from which decision support and information systems can prosper.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

The cost of application system development and maintenance in DoD is staggering. The search for lower cost alternatives to the current modus operandi has reached Holy Grail status. Radical solutions may be required. Approaching system development as a generative, dynamic phenomenon rather than a static structured process may offer insight into more effective ways to control this activity.

Recent Publications


<address>Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil
Last Updated On:
</address>
6. Emery's Home Page Design

<html>
<head>
<title>Emery</title>
</head>
<body>
<p><hr size = 5><br>
<img align = left src = "images/emery.gif">
</p>
<pre>
James C. Emery
Professor
PhD, MIT Sloan School of Management, 1965
(408) 656-3614
jemery@nps.navy.mil
</pre>

<h3>Research Areas</h3>

Application Development

The conventional process for developing application software has a long history of problems. The process can be characterized by the use of a disciplined structured methodology and programming in a 3GL procedural language. Applications under development are often delivered substantially over budget and schedule or not at all. Worse, the applications, once delivered, often fail to meet the needs of users. Their inflexibility makes them expensive to maintain and difficult to adapt to changing needs.

A number of new approaches seem likely to make significant improvements in application development. These include the use of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products, application templates, reusable objects and components, middleware, and 4th-generation languages. A particular challenge is to provide integrated, interoperable systems in a client/server environment.

</body>
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We are currently concentrating our research efforts on the development of information systems for the Naval Postgraduate School. The School provides a microcosm of the broader issues found throughout the Department of Defense: multiple networks, stovepipe (non-integrated) application programs, and lack of a powerful infrastructure. Our initial focus is on enhancing the campus network, providing standard directory and e-mail services, and performing a work flow analysis of administrative systems. Once an effective infrastructure is put in place, we will develop applications using COTS products, Middleware, and a client/server-based 4GL. The intention is to develop guidelines for application development, based on our experience at NPS. 

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

DoD spends about $30 billion a year on software development and maintenance. Cost is not the only concern: the emerging information warfare environment makes effective software development of great strategic importance. Improving the process of developing and maintaining application software is therefore of enormous importance to DOD.

**Recent Publications**


Barry Frew  
Associate Professor 
MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1984  
(408) 656-2924  
bfrew@nps.navy.mil  

Executive IT Management and Education; Software Engineering, Project Management, & Enterprise Integration

My research examines various approaches to executive education with respect to information technology management issues within DoN. In addition, it involves the study of critical success factors for IT management within DoD/DoN activities; My research also involves the study of various approaches to integrating and interconnecting applications to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide information management support. The intent is to develop real applications for real use at NPS (because NPS is viewed as a microcosm of DoN/DoD’s information environment), using a wide spectrum of technical approaches.

TOPSAIL, the result of this work, is a program for systematic and complete coverage of Information Technology Management topics for Navy Flag Officers and SES civilian employees. The topics covered include information management issues relevant to DoN high level managers. This high level education program is envisioned as a tool for improving decisions with respect to the selection, acquisition, deployment, use and maintenance of information system resources throughout the DoN.

8. Haga’s Home Page Design

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<P> <HR size = 5> <BR>
<img align = left src = "~/images/haga.gif">

<address>
  William James Haga
  Visiting Associate Professor
  PhD, UNIV of Illinois, 1972
</address>
<H3>Research Areas</H3>
System Productivity Metrics

<H3>Research Description</H3>
I am an émigré from organization theory where I enjoyed a minor reputation for identifying the role-making process in organizations. My IT interests are two-fold. First, I am concerned about the research methods used to assess the productivity of information systems. Secondly, I am drawn to look at the impact of information technology upon work relationships in organizations and upon society and culture at large.

I measured the effectiveness of the SACONS and APADE contract-generation systems by collecting field data on inputs and outputs in a pre-experimental design. I wrote a case study of DOD's consolidation and standardization of information systems through its Corporate Information Management program. I assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing guidance for DOD managers to undertake business process re-engineering. To this end, I directed the development of the REAP database. I also proposed an automation of the budget forecasting and planning module of the Navy Bureau of Medicine's executive information system.

I recently helped Fleet Numerical Meterology and Oceanographic Center experiment with focus groups as a means to assess system effectiveness from their customers perspective.

<H3>Relevance to DoD/DoN</H3>

My work has helped DoD organizations considering off-the-shelf software for the automation of small purchases and contracts. I have directly assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing a database of organizations that are candidates for benchmarking.
<H3><U>Recent Publications</U></H3>


Zviran, M. and W. J. Haga. A Comparison of Password Techniques for

9. Kamel’s Home Page Design

<html>
  <head>
    <title>KAMEL</title>
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  <body>
    <p>
      Magdi N. Kamel
      Associate Professor
      PhD, UNIV of Pennsylvania,
      The Wharton School, 1988
      (408)656-2494
    </p>
  </body>
</html>
<H3> <U>Research Areas</U></H3>
Interoperability and Integration of Heterogeneous Databases

<H3> <U>Research Description</U></H3>
Interoperability and integration of heterogeneous databases is one of the main challenges facing today's medium and large-size organizations. We are currently pursuing two different approaches to address this problem.

The first approach addresses the theoretical and practical issues associated with building systems that facilitate interoperability and integration of existing systems while preserving their autonomy and considerable investment. Foremost of these issues is the identification and resolution of semantic heterogeneity that exists among these systems. To address that issue, we have developed a comprehensive framework for identifying, classifying, and resolving semantic heterogeneity for different data models.

The second approach investigates methodologies to gradually reverse-engineer old systems into new integrated and cleanly structured systems that follow modern principles of good design, conform with the data and process models of the enterprise, and comply with accepted standards, therefore increasing their ability to share information with other systems in addition to being easily maintained and enhanced.

<H3> <U>Relevance to DoD/DoN</U></H3>
One of the main challenges facing DoD/DoN is the proliferation of a large variety of incompatible database systems and their associated applications. As the number of databases increases, so does the need to interoperate many of those applications and integrate them into an overall strategic information system.

Our work addresses these issues by investigating the theoretical and practical issues involved in building systems to facilitate the interoperation and integration of these systems and by addressing the issue of reverse engineering legacy system into modern systems that facilitate data sharing and integration.
<H3><U>Recent Publications</U></H3>


10. Ramesh's Home Page Design

Knowledge-Based Support for Systems Development

Large scale systems development and maintenance efforts are often hindered because much of the richness of the design process, namely the design rationale, involving the deliberations on alternative design decisions is lost in the course of designing and changing such systems. We have developed a model that is geared towards capturing the rationales behind design decisions and using this knowledge to reason about changes in design decisions. The use of this model for representation and reasoning with rationale behind requirements and design decisions will greatly aid the development and maintenance of large scale systems. A major objective of our research is to elevate
the process of systems maintenance to the level of specifications and the rationale behind their creation. Development of models and mechanisms to capture and reuse rationale to support various systems development activities is the primary focus of this work.<P>

Development of complex, mission critical systems involves modification, refinement and evolution of initial requirements that lead to design solutions. In order to provide intelligent and useful support to the process of design and maintenance, a formal representation of the linkages between the design solutions, the requirements and their sources is essential. A comprehensive traceability scheme should not only identify traceability linkages to be maintained, but also provide the mechanisms to support use in systems development and maintenance activities. Based on an extensive empirical study of systems development personnel, we have developed several models for requirements traceability.<P>

<H3><U>Relevance to DoD/DoN</U></H3>
Reducing systems development and maintenance costs and improving the quality and reliability of systems are of major concern for the DoD/DoN. Our work focuses on developing models and mechanisms that will help capture knowledge about the systems development process and use this knowledge to support a variety of stakeholders involved in development and maintenance of the system as well as in future projects. Such a reuse of process knowledge is expected to increase systems development and productivity significantly.<P>

<H3><U>Recent Publications</U></H3>


11. Schneidewind’s Home Page Design

11. Schneidewind’s Home Page Design

Software Reliability and Software Metrics

Research was conducted on the feasibility of optimally selecting failure data in order to identify the optimal set of model parameters that would result in maximum predictive accuracy, using the Schneidewind Software Reliability Model as a vehicle for the research. The research showed that significantly improved reliability predictions can be obtained by using a subset of the failure data, based on applying the appropriate criteria, and using the Space Shuttle On-Board software as an example.
that has six validation criteria which support the quality functions: assessment, control and prediction. New criteria were defined and illustrated, including: consistency, discriminative power, tracking and repeatability. It was shown that non-parametric statistical methods play an important role in evaluating metrics against the validity criteria. It was also shown how metrics that have been validated on a current project can be applied on a future project. A non-parametric statistical method was developed for finding the critical (i.e., threshold) values of metrics. Critical values are identified by applying the discriminative power criterion and are applied in quality control to identify potentially low quality software. It was shown how to do a cost sensitivity analysis on the critical values in order to tradeoff the cost of inspection against the cost of software failures. Lastly, it was shown how metrics that have been validated against the criteria discriminative power and tracking can be used in maintenance to:

1) establish quality control objectives; and 2) prioritize software components (e.g., modules) and allocate resources to maintain them.<p>

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

As a result of my software reliability research, an enhanced version of the Schneidewind Software Reliability Model was implemented in Version 5 of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) SMERFS software reliability tool, which has been acquired by numerous DoD agencies and contractors. In addition, the model is used at NSWC for research in reliability prediction and analysis of the TRIDENT I and II Fire Control Software.<p>

My software metrics research has also been applied by NSWC to validate metrics for quality assurance of the TRIDENT I and II Fire Control Software.<p>

**Recent Publications**


Schneidewind, Norman F. Software Reliability Model with


12. Sengupta’s Home Page Design
<head> <title> SENGUPTA </title> </head>
<body>
<p> <hr size = 5> <br>
<img align = left src = "images/sengupta.gif">
</p>
<address>
Kishore Sengupta
Associate Professor
PhD, Case Western Reserve UNIV., 1990
(408) 656-3212
kishore@nps.navy.mil
</address>

<h3> <u> Research Areas </u> </h3>
Decision Making and Decision Support in Dynamic Environments,
Computer- Supported collaborative Work, Multimedia and Intelligent
Tutoring Systems

<h3> <u> Research Description </u> </h3>
My principal research interests are in the cognitive aspects
of behavioral decision theory and their application to the design of
information systems. Research in this area is driven to two broad
goals: to engage in a systematic study of how decisions are made in
individual and collaborative situations, and to apply the findings in
formulating design principles for decision support systems.

Within the context of these objectives, I have pursued three
themes: feedback/feed forward, dynamic decision environments, and
collaborative work. My work on feedback and feed forward examines the
comparative efficacies of different types of feedback and feed forward
mechanisms (particularly cognitive feedback) in improving decision
quality. Much of this work has been conducted in dynamic decision
environments in the context of individual and collaborative work
situations. The research questions have been examined in experimental
settings with computer-supported microworlds that incorporate the
complexities and sophistication of real-world settings.

My work in multimedia concerns the use of the technology in
the development of interactive instructional systems. I am currently
examining the feasibility of building systems in domains that require perceptual learning. One such application is in the area of night vision goggles, which are used by aviators for flying at night. Night vision goggles create a representation of the external environment that is dramatically different from that perceived in daylight conditions. Flying in such environments, therefore, requires extensive training. My research in this area entails building a prototype instructional system that incorporates multimedia, night vision imagery, and synthetic visual environments.<p>

**<H3>Relevance to DoD/DoN</H3>**

The relevance of my research on dynamic environments to the DoD/DoN lies in the fact that military decision situations tend to be complex, uncertain, and dynamic. Thus, the ability to provide effective decision support is important to performance in such environments.<p>

**<H3>Recent Publications</H3>**


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13. Sridhar’s Home Page Design

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<BODY> 

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<address>  
Suresh Sridhar  

100
Visiting Assistant Professor
PhD, Vanderbilt UNIV, 1995
(408) 656-2489
sridhar@nps.navy.mil
</address>

Research Areas

Telecommunication Systems and Decision Support Systems

Research Description

The dramatic changes in computing technology coupled with increased demands for computing power has led several organizations to shift towards distributed computing systems. Thus, tasks are processed in parallel by several processors under this scenario. One of the major research issues in this area is to optimally balance the workload among several processors. Load balancing can be either static or dynamic. We have proposed improved algorithms for the static load balancing problem where the workload can be distributed in any proportion among the processors. This also serves as a lower bound for cases where the tasks cannot be split among processors. We are currently developing algorithms for the dynamic load balancing problem.

The field of mobile communication networks is another area which is becoming increasingly important. For example, cellular networks, which fall under this category, have been growing at an explosive rate. The objective of this research is to develop optimal policies for configuring cellular networks. In particular, this research will address the following issues: management of existing facilities, investment in expanding existing facilities and configuring new facilities, and the impact of these decisions on the quality of service. It attempts to answer questions such as: What policies are required to effectively manage the network? When is a policy most effective? What are the implications of using one policy over another? It attempts to incorporate the various technical, operating and regulatory constraints in developing the optimal policies. Finally, it examines the implications of using these policies for managerial decision-making.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

The results from the above research can be useful for various
agencies of the DoD/DoN in improving the effectiveness of command and control. Modern warfare requires quick deployment of personnel and sophisticated weapon systems. The use of mobile communication systems such as cellular networks enhance the provision of tactical communications to deployed forces who are constantly on the move. By using optimal policies in configuring such networks, it is possible to ensure their cost-effectiveness and maintain the specified quality of service.

<H3>Recent Publications</H3>


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GOTO NPS Home Page

Naval Postgraduate School Home page

BARBARA L. FRANKLIN -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil

Last Updated On:

Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil

Last Updated On:
The Information Technology Management Group’s current research efforts fall into the following five broad categories:

- Model Management
- Database Management Systems
- Decision Support and Expert Systems
- Software Engineering and Applications Development
- Networks and Communications

A brief overview of each category is presented below.

**Model Management**

The role of modeling is central to the understanding of organizations and to the development of information systems that meet the needs of organizations. Models are used in decision making as well as information systems analysis and design. Creating computer-based environments wherein complex models can be easily represented, manipulated, integrated, and understood is an important objective of software engineering and decision support.

Professor Daniel Dolk’s academic contributions have been in the design and construction of software environments to support mathematical programming and statistical analysis. This requires the synthesis of many different fields, including database management, artificial intelligence, operations research, cognitive psychology, and software engineering.

His current interests are in object-oriented enterprise modeling, complex adaptive systems, and symbiotic, or active, modeling systems that incorporate neural network, genetic algorithms, and expert system technology to actively assist the user in data exploration as a precursor for building good statistical models.

Computer-aided modeling environments, or model management systems, are designed to facilitate the construction, exercise, and management of...
mathematical models for decision making. Professor Bhargava's research has contributed to the development of modeling environments in a variety of ways; his niche in this field is in the use of formal logic in developing representation and reasoning models for important components of these systems.<P>

Some topics investigated in Professor Bhargava's research involve modeling principles and philosophy, architectures for modeling environments, and system functions that involve qualitative and symbolic reasoning. A chief contribution of his research is the embedded languages technique that provides an architecture for building modeling environments, allows these systems to represent and reason with a variety of qualitative information, and integrates multiple modeling languages.<P>

<H5>Publications:</H5>


Databases and database technology are having a major impact on the growing use of computers. They play a major role in almost every information system technology and all areas where computers are used.

Professor Kamel's main research interest area is the design, implementation, and application of database systems. Specifically, he is interested in data modeling and query languages, data quality, data integrity, object-oriented database systems, integration of databases with decision support and expert systems, and interoperability and integration issues of heterogeneous databases.

The last issue, interoperability and integration of heterogeneous databases, is of particular interest and is the focus of his current research activity. He is pursuing two different approaches to address this problem. The first approach addresses the theoretical and practical issues associated with building systems that facilitate interoperability and integration of existing systems while preserving their autonomy and considerable investment. The second approach investigates methodologies to gradually reverse-engineer old systems into new integrated and cleanly structured systems that follow modern principles of good design, conform with the data and process models of the enterprise, and comply with accepted standards, therefore increasing their ability to share information with other systems in addition to being easily maintained and enhanced.

Publications:


Computer-based systems to support the various aspects of decision making, including generation of alternatives, their evaluation and choice.

Sridhar's work focuses on group decision support systems to address the challenges of meetings distributed in time and space. A prototype system called the Computer Mediated Meeting Management (CM3) has been developed to facilitate group consensus formation and to enhance the group decision making processes.

The CM3 system supports participant anonymity, triggering of new thought processes, group memory providing fully documented meetings, and the ability to support long duration meetings. In addition, it supports dynamic formation of subgroups within meetings. It consists of several modules for question generation, brainstorming, consolidation, voting, ranking and resource allocation.

Publications:

Gavish, B., J. Gerdes, and S. Sridhar. CM3 A Distributed Group Decision Support System. IIE TRANSACTIONS.


Decision Making in Dynamic Environments

Research in dynamic decision environments is motivated by the recognition that many decision situations (such as combat decision making) are dynamic in nature. Research in this area is typically carried out with three objectives.
Ascertain how individuals and groups cope with complex dynamic environments, Design appropriate organizational structures to facilitate adaptation by teams in such environments, and Establish design principles for building decision support systems for dynamic environments.

Professor Kishore Sengupta's contribution in this area has been in expanding our understanding of how individuals and groups make decisions in such environments, and in establishing the comparative efficacies of different feedback and feedforward mechanisms in dynamic environments. He is currently examining the question of adaptive coordination in the context of an ONR-funded project on flexible organizations.

Publications:


Instructional Multimedia Systems

Instructional multimedia systems offer the potential of engendering fundamental changes in the way we learn. The design of effective instructional systems thus carries important implications for training and education in the workplace. The objective of this project is to
Professor Kishore Sengupta's contribution to this project has been primarily in the design and construction of multimedia systems for instruction. Much of this work has been conducted in the context of training for night vision goggles. Night vision goggles are being used widely by aviators for flying in night time and low light conditions. Such goggles are used for a wide variety of tasks, ranging from combat missions to medical evacuation procedures. The representation of the external world offered by night vision goggles is dramatically different from normal (daylight) perception. Thus, without adequate training in the use of these goggles, even otherwise experienced aviators are prone to committing errors that would not normally occur in daylight conditions. In the absence of suitable training mechanisms, the increasing use of night vision goggles has been accompanied by a dramatic rise in accident rates.

As part of a multi-year project funded by the Naval Air Systems Command, Professor Sengupta is building a hypermedia instructional system that will enable aviators to learn critical perceptual skills required for the effective use of night vision goggles. The system will provide self-paced instruction, along with practice and rehearsal sessions. The system will also evaluate students on their progress.

Publications:


Professor Abdel-Hamid has focused on applying the system dynamics modeling technique to study the dynamics of software project management. This has led to the development of a hierarchy of interrelated models to study single-project dynamics, multi-project dynamics (e.g., multiple projects sharing common resources), and organization-wide dynamics.
(e.g., impacts of organization-wide policies for software reuse). Through modeling and simulation, these models serve as experimentation laboratories to study software project management phenomena and gain a better understanding of the dynamically complex interactions and trade-offs that characterize software project management.

Professor Abdel-Hamid is also working on the development of intelligent tutoring interfaces to the system dynamics models of software project management in order to use them as learning laboratories for software project managers. (This is analogous to the use of flight simulators in training pilots.)

**Publications:**


Since software process and product evolve over time, software reliability models should be designed to selectively use failure data to reflect this fact. To meet this need, a software reliability model with optimal selection of failure data was developed.
Professor Schneidewind has developed a software reliability model that is used by LORAL Space Information Systems and NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston to assist in making reliability predictions of the Space Shuttle flight software. The model predicts time to next failure and remaining failures to help assure the flight worthiness of the Shuttle software. These predictions, along with many other quality assurance techniques, provide confidence prior to launch that there will be no critical (i.e., loss of life or mission) software failures during a Shuttle mission.

This model is one of only four models recommended by the American National Standards Institute/American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Recommended Practice for Software Reliability. The Schneidewind model is also one of the models included in the Statistical Modeling and Estimation of Reliability Functions for Software (SMERFS) tool, developed by the Naval Surface Warfare Center, which has been acquired by hundreds of government, industrial, and academic organizations. For the development of this model and other contributions to software measurement, Dr. Schneidewind was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in 1992.

Publications:


Software Metrics

The measurement of the productivity of information systems is a critical element in the legitimation, funding and development of information technology. The attraction of convenient surrogate metrics for productivity raises the possibility that the management and support
structure for information technology, although not the technology itself, may drift into irrelevance. Developing metrics of system productivity that are validated with behavioral anchors or employ non-obtrusive instrumentation is essential to gaining support for information technology from increasingly skeptical decision makers in the top levels of management.<P>

Professor William Haga’s research efforts have included the measurement of the effectiveness of the SACONS and APADE contract-generation systems through the collection of field data on inputs and outputs in a pre-experimental design. He has assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing guidance for DOD managers who undertake business process re-engineering. To this end, he directed the development of the REAP database. He also proposed an automation of the budget forecasting and planning module of the Navy Bureau of Medicine’s executive information system.<P>

His emerging interest is in examining the impact of information technology upon work relationships in organizations and upon society and culture at large.<P>

<H5> Publications:</H5>


<H3> Application Development</H3><P>

Application development is concerned with the translation of information systems requirements into a working system that satisfies the requirements.<P>

Professor Emery’s recent research has focused on the problem of developing application software. The conventional software development process employing a multi-phased structured design process and writing
custom programs in a procedural language has led to frequent budget and schedule overruns and systems that often do not meet the changing needs of users.<p></p>

A variety of new approaches to application development appear to offer substantial potential for improving the process. Included are the use of application packages, templates, reusable objects and components, middleware products to integrate components, and 4th generation languages. <p></p>

Professors Emery and Frew are studying various approaches to integrating and interconnecting applications to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide information management support. The intent is to develop real applications for real use at NPS, because the school is viewed as a microcosm of DoN/DoD sinformation environment. A wide spectrum of technical approaches is being used, including the implementation of Commercial-Off- The-Shelf (COTS) products for client/server use of work-group, work-flow products or document management and fourth generation (4GL) application development tools. The strategy is to use DoD processes and standards in building interoperable applications in order to develop a model for wider use within DoD/DoN.<p></p>

<H5>Publications:</H5>

<pre>


</pre>
Distributed Systems and Computer Networks

A paradigm has been developed for the system and software design of distributed systems, with application to large scale computer networks consisting of local area networks interconnected by a wide area network. Professor Schneidewind has developed a paradigm for the system and software design of distributed systems with application to the Navy's Stock Point Logistics Integrated Communications Environment (SPLICE), which is a distributed computer network for providing high speed logistics transaction processing to support the Navy's world-wide material requirements. The system consists of local computer networks and an interconnecting wide area network, the Defense Data Network.

A number of design principles are offered with particular reference to how they can be applied to the design of distributed systems. The major contribution to the field of distributed systems is an explanation of how to make design decisions about distributed systems in a way that will enhance maintainability and understandability of the software and, at the same time, result in good system performance. An additional objective is to recognize the implications for software quality of various decisions which must be made in the process of specifying a distributed system.

Publications:


Telecommunication Systems

Professor Sridhar is interested in the use of quantitative and qualitative tools for modeling, analysis, design and management of telecommunication systems. Sridhar has developed algorithms for optimally balancing a given workload among processors with preassigned loads, in a distributed computing system. The processors may either have equal or unequal processing rates. The analysis considers the case where perfect load balancing is possible, as well as the case where only
approximate load balancing is possible.<P>

His current research focuses on the economic aspects of configuring cellular networks. A model has been developed to determine the system configuration which will maximize the annual expected net revenues. The study includes an analysis of the impact of changes in design parameters on system configuration, the cost of competition, and its implications for the regulatory agency.<P>

<H5> Publications:</H5>

<PRE>

</PRE>
1. Decision Research Center Page Design

The Decision and Information Systems Research Center (DISC) was established at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1995. Its research focus is on the design, implementation, and analysis of information systems directed at organizational computing and decision making. The Center currently has 12 associated faculty, representing backgrounds and research interests in decision sciences, software development, networking, and interoperability and integration of information technologies and modeling methodologies. DISC provides a common identity for related research projects as well as various support services. The Center runs an active seminar series drawing speakers from various universities, industry, DoD organizations and research laboratories.

DISC faculty research is sponsored by a broad range of funding agencies, including several in the Department of Defense. Current topics being researched by the Center’s faculty include:

- The use of the internet for sharing decision-oriented information technologies
- Development of multimedia-capable intelligent-tutoring technologies
- Evolutionary computing
- Investigation of new paradigms for developing organizational computing software
- Development of guidelines for the migration to an integrated and interoperable client-server architecture
Further information about the Center is available via the World Wide Web (http://sm.nps.navy.mil/DISC/disc.html), via electronic mail (disc@sm.nps.navy.mil), or by calling the Professor Hemant Bhargava at (408) 656-2264.

Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl@nps.navy.mil
Last update On:

2. Multimedia Research Laboratory Page Design

The objective of the effort is to provide a vehicle for conducting interdisciplinary research on instructional technology and in information
systems that utilize evolving multimedia technologies. The facility has been in existence since 1992 and is used by faculty and students from the Information Systems, Aviation Safety, and Command & Control areas. The laboratory provides multimedia computing facilities for two platforms: MS-DOS/Windows based and UNIX based systems. Currently, we have a network of Sun workstations as well as high-end MS-DOS-based machines.<P>

The faculty and students involved with the laboratory are pursuing research on a variety of topics, much of it in cooperation with different units of the Navy and other services. Principal areas of research include:<P>

<UL>
  <LI>Development of a prototype computer-based system for training on night vision goggles
  <LI>Application of Multimedia for Capturing Design Rationale
  <LI>Design and Implementation of an Expert Advisor for Maintenance of the Mark-92 Fire Control System
  <LI>Development of Interactive Education Media
</UL>

For further information, contact Professor Sengupta, Director of the Multimedia Research Laboratory at Phone: (408) 656-3212 or via E-mail: kishore@nps.navy.mil
3. Metrics Research Center Page Design

Increasingly, DoD is requiring the use of metrics in software development contracts. Although there have been significant achievements in this area, there exists gaps in theory and practice. Among these are validation methodologies, process methodologies, databases, metrics tools, and cost analyses. The Software Metrics Research Center was established in response to DoD needs to address these issues. Here students and faculty tackle such issues as integration of metrics methodology into the software life-cycle process, development of metrics tools, and general metrics research. Current research projects include:

- Space Shuttle Software Reliability and Metrics
- A Software Reliability Model with Optimal Selection of Failure
For further information, contact Professor Schneidewind, Director of the Software Metrics Research Center at Phone: (408) 656-2719 or via E-mail: Schneidewind@nps.navy.mil

I. SPONSORS PAGE DESIGN

<html>

<!--Faculty Research Catalog: Recent Research Sponsors Section-->

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<H1>Recent Research Sponsors</H1>

- Army Artificial Intelligence Center
- Army Strategic Logistics Agency (SLA)
- Canada Council for Research in Social Sciences
- Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Department of the Army
- Coast Guard
- Commander Military Sealift Command (MSC)
- Commander Naval Aviation, Pacific
- Credit Suisse, Information Systems Center of the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland
- Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)
- Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)
- Hong Kong Competitive Earmarked Research Grant
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Marine Corp, Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA)
- Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)
- Naval Center for Cost Analysis
- Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)
- Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC)-Dahlgren Division
- Naval Surface Warfare Center -Port Hueneme Division
- Office of Naval Research (ONR)
- Pacific Bell
- Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research

</UL>
J. PUBLICATIONS PAGE DESIGN

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1994 Publications


1993 Publications


IT93.21 Ramesh, B. and M. Edwards . Issues in the Development


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Welcome! I want to introduce you to the Department of Systems Management at the Naval Postgraduate School. Our department has the largest and most diverse faculty and student body at the Naval Postgraduate School. We have eleven different curricula, ranging from financial management to acquisition and contract management to information technology management. With over seventy full-time faculty and more than 500 graduate students, we proudly claim to be DoD’s premier ‘Graduate School of Management’.

This brochure is one of our ways of establishing closer connection with our customers — present and future — who are interested in Information Systems, one of our core areas of expertise. Over the past six years we’ve built one of the best information systems faculties in the world. The purpose of this brochure is to describe the faculty — their accomplishments, capabilities, and aspirations — and to showcase their achievements that have impactfully addressed a range of DoD’s recent and current problems. To be sure, this group of professionals is impressive — both in terms of their educational preparation and their demonstrated commitment to advancing the frontiers of this important field.

As you peruse the following pages, I’m confident that you’ll be as impressed with the achievements and potential of our faculty and their graduate student advisees as I’ve been these past few years. As you skim through the narratives that describe my colleagues’ interests and capabilities or as you review the summaries of our collective areas of expertise, I’m sure you’ll conclude that we offer a research and studies-and-analysis capability that is difficult to replicate.

Give me a call if you’d like further information on the Department of Systems Management and our abilities to assist you.
Overview

We are rapidly moving from an era of information scarcity to one of abundance. Until very recently, information technology was expensive, time consuming, and error prone; by historical standards, it is now cheap, fast, and reliable.

Because of these changes, the use of information technology often offers the most attractive means of increasing an organization’s effectiveness and reducing its use of capital resources and personnel. The changes have been so profound that it is becoming common to regard the new era as the Information Age, in which information technology in all its forms becomes a fundamental determinant of a nation’s or organization’s ability to thrive in the Nineties and beyond.

The importance of information technology is, of course, widely recognized in the Navy and Department of Defense. For many technical, economic, demographic, and political reasons, the U.S. must emphasize improved quality rather than quantity in its military force structure. Applications of computer technology provide one of the important avenues for achieving such quality. This is manifested in the growing proliferation and power of “smart” weapons. Information technology is important not only in weapons systems; it is also an essential ingredient in improved command and control systems. Success in C² warfare and C⁴I for the warrior is totally dependent on wisely deployed information technology. Any fundamental improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of managing the military services — for example, in logistics, human resource management, and financial control — will almost certainly require the use of computer-based systems.

The most recent Defense Critical Technologies Plan selects 20 areas of technology that are regarded as the most critical in supporting the military needs of the United States. Information technology is a direct or indirect ingredient of almost all of these critical areas. Because of its leadership role in many aspects of information technology, the U.S. has gained an advantage compared to its potential military adversaries.

The Information Technology Management (ITM) group of the Systems Management Department of the Naval Postgraduate School consists of 13 faculty members. The masters program in ITM typical has an enrollment of about 100 students at a given point in time.

An important distinguishing characteristic of the faculty is its focus on the application of computer-based systems, especially in DoN/DoD environments. Although their work frequently involves advanced technology, it is not only advances in technology that motivate the teaching and research of the group. It is, rather, the understanding of existing technology and the development of new technology that potentially makes it possible to develop more efficient and effective information systems within the DoN/DoD context.

The ITM group provides a unique resource within the DoD. Its well-recognized competence and wide range of interests equips the group to provide assistance to DoN and DoD agencies in several ways. These can be broken down into 1) research, 2) prototype systems development, and 3) executive education.

Research. In order to tackle the increasingly difficult challenges of implementing effective information systems, management in the private sector as well as the DoD and other government agencies needs to gain a better understanding of the issues. The unique character and scale of the DoD makes it especially difficult to implement successful systems. There is a lot that we do not know about how systems can be made more effective, how we can develop them more quickly and cheaply, and how we can cope with the organizational changes required. The research being conducted by the ITM group is aimed at dealing with such questions.
The ITM group is well qualified to engage in multi-disciplinary research aimed at dealing with difficult problems recognized as important by the leadership of a DoN or DoD agency. The group is most effective in dealing with challenging research tasks that require deep technical competence, viewpoints drawn from multiple disciplines, and effort spread over a number of months or even a few years. Faculty members are motivated to publish the results of their research as contributions to technical and management literature.

**Prototype systems development.** Working as they do in an applied area, faculty members are generally interested in seeing their work put into practice. Although faculty members usually do not have the time to develop full-scale production systems, they can play a valuable role in assisting in the development of prototype systems that demonstrate and verify concepts. Contemporary application development tools — particularly those available on microcomputers — make it feasible to undertake significant development projects. Once a concept has been demonstrated as practical and useful, it is then generally possible for an appropriate technical group to translate the concept into a working production system.

The graduate students at NPS provide a valuable resource for doing such prototype developments. They are typically quite experienced in DoD matters, and have been well trained in information technology. Furthermore, they have received the kind of breadth in related areas such as management, economics, accounting, etc, required to deal effectively with real world problems. Each student is required to perform a research project and write a thesis that represents a significant piece of work. A prototype project of the type envisioned here serves as an ideal source of thesis topics. Working closely with one or more faculty members, a highly professional team of students can be assembled to deal with important ITM topics.

**Executive education.** It is becoming increasingly well recognized that one of the critical success factors in applying information technology is to obtain executive leadership. The technical staff can be held responsible for developing good technical solutions, but the task of translating organizational needs into information systems specifications must come from the top leaders. That is the role for general management.

In order to play that role effectively, an executive should know something about the technology and how it can serve the needs of the organization. Such a leader need not — should not — be concerned with strictly technical matters. He or she does, however, need to know the strengths and weaknesses of information systems, have a reasonable appreciation for the difficulty of implementing a system, and understand the tradeoffs involved in balancing the costs and benefits of a proposed system.

The ITM group is well qualified to develop and present tailored executive education programs. It has wide experience in teaching in a variety of environments. Its special familiarity with DoN and DoD matters permits the group to use relevant and appropriate examples and case materials. It has the resources —including graduate students seeking interesting thesis topics — to develop tailored material for a particular DoD audience.
Faculty


- Hermant K. Bhargava, Assistant Professor (1989); PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1990.

- Rex Buddenberg, Lecturer (1993); MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1986.

- Tung X. Bui, Associate Professor (1984); PhD, New York University, 1985.

- Daniel Dolk, Associate Professor (1982); PhD, University of Arizona, 1982.

- James C. Emery, Professor (1993); PhD, MIT Sloan School of Management, 1965.

- Barry Frew, Associate Professor (1984); MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1984.

- William James Haga, Visiting Associate Professor (1988); PhD, University of Illinois, 1972.

- Magdi N. Kamel, Assistant Professor (1988); PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1988.

- Balasubramanian Ramesh, Assistant Professor (1990); PhD, New York University, 1992.

- Norman Schneidewind, Professor (1971); DBA, University of Southern California, 1966.

- Kishore Sengupta, Associate Professor (1989); Case Western Reserve University, 1990.

- Surest Sridhar, Visiting Assistant Professor (1994); PhD, Vanderbilt University, 1994.

*The year of joining the Naval Postgraduate School faculty is indicated in parentheses.
Research Areas

Software Engineering, Project Management, Software Reuse, Dynamic Decision Making, and System Dynamics

Research Description

Over the last ten years, my research has focused on applying the system dynamics modeling technique to study the dynamics of software project management. This has led to the development of a hierarchy of interrelated models to study single-project dynamics, multi-project dynamics (e.g., multiple projects sharing common resources), and organization-wide dynamics (e.g., impacts of organization-wide policies for software reuse). Through modeling and simulation, these models serve as "experimentation laboratories" to study software project management phenomena and gain a better understanding of the dynamically complex interactions and trade-offs that characterize software project management.

In addition, the models serve as computer-based management support tools to evaluate/design organizational policies (e.g., setting software reuse goals, allocating quality assurance resources, etc.). The models are currently being used in more than forty organizations worldwide (organizations such as NASA, Hewlett-Packard, and Siemens).

I am using my suite of simulation tools as "experimentation microworlds" to study dynamic decision making in the software management domain (e.g., study the impact of individualistic versus cooperative reward schemes on project resource allocations).

I am also working on the development of "intelligent" tutoring interfaces to the system dynamics models of software project management in order to use them as "learning laboratories" for NPS students and DoD software project managers. (This is analogous to the use of flight simulators in training pilots.)

Relevance to DoD/DoN

The impressive innovations in the technology of software production that have been made over the last three decades have not been matched by a corresponding maturity in the capability to manage the production of software. As a result, there continues to be too many project failures, marked by cost overruns, late deliveries, poor reliability, and user dissatisfaction.

Recently, it has become more and more evident within DoD that in software, product innovation is no longer the primary bottleneck to progress, the bottleneck is project management innovation.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Decision Support Systems, Computer-Aided Modeling, Logic Modeling, Artificial Intelligence

Research Description

My research is focused on the decision sciences, and involves computer-aided mathematical modeling, logic modeling, and artificial intelligence. My current work develops methods for using the Internet to allow global sharing of computer-based decision technologies. My general research interests include the modeling process, developing formal languages and systems for modeling and reasoning, and exploring the interface qualitative and quantitative methods for modeling and reasoning.

Research Projects:

DecisionNet

The DecisionNet project aims to develop software infrastructure that offers access to a globally distributed network of modeling and decision support systems. Using the World Wide Web, DecisionNet allows providers to publicize and make available their technologies to consumers who can search, connect to, and use them. The project investigates several issues arising from the creation of this electronic marketplace of decision technologies.

Integrated Modeling Environments

Computer-aided modeling environments are designed to facilitate the construction, exercise, and management of mathematical models for decision making. Representative topics investigated in this project are: Philosophy and principles of modeling; Embedded languages as an architecture for modeling systems; Extensions to formal modeling languages; Computer-aided model construction.

Post-evaluation Analysis of Mathematical Models

What-if analysis is a standard feature in decision support systems. We investigate how computer-aided modeling systems may be used to search—intelligently and automatically—complex decision spaces in order to find high quality policy options.

Fleet Mix Planning

Fleet mix planning involves determining the “optimal” mix of assets that an organization must hold in order to optimize its defined objective while satisfying environmental and organizational constraints. We survey methods for fleet planning, and develop models and decision policies for fleet mix planning in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

Professor Bhargava’s research has been funded by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Army Artificial Intelligence Center, and by funds from DARPA/ASTO.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Computer Networks, High Availability Networking, and Radio-WAN Development

Research Description

My research specializes in adaptation of commercial networking technology for military purposes with focus on maintained high availability. Military and civilian emergency services requirements for Computer networks generally include:

- High availability and survivability
- Extension of internetworks into radio-WAN environment to reach mobile platforms
- Security requirements that exceed commercial Internet needs. My work focuses on these areas

Radio-based WAN requirements impact protocol suites in different ways than conventional wired networks. Testbed and protocol design requirements in this area includes:

- Low interactivity networks
- Reliable multicast
- Mobile hosts
- Multiple data types with multiple QoS needs
- Incorporation of one-way data feeds into networks
- Fast setup requirements

Developing evolutionary action plans that allow incremental growth and real action with recognition that requirements are not well known or defined is required to achieve the desired goals in High Availability Networking.

These two requirements lead to several contributory topics that include:

- Low Earth Orbit satellites
- Wireless network technology development
- Network management
- Secure messaging
- Network protocol architecture
- Export education to USCG, NAVSEA, NRaD on networking
- Consulting and research work to NAVSEA (submarinesyscom), SPAWAR (Next Generation Computer Resources), NAVAIR (NavAirWide Area Network), and ARPA (network-to-fleet)
- Program planning, prototype work for Joint Oceanographic Institution and Taking the Internet to Sea for the Oceanographic Fleet

My research project, ‘Taking the Internet to Sea,’ can be found at http://vislab-www.nps.navy.mil/~seanet

Relevance to DoD/DoN

Continued operations and high levels of survivability are often required for today’s computer networks. With regards to WAN’s, taking the Internet to the fleet represents major improvement in C3I systems.

Recent Publications


Supporting Argumentation in Software Development Project

The purpose of this research is to develop an argumentation language to support software development projects managed in a geographically dispersed setting and in an asynchronous mode.

Design of a Distributed Decision Support System for Optimizing the Utilization of Military Satellite Resources

The management of military telecommunications services in a crisis situation requires adhoc, quick planning and negotiation among different organizations involved in the deployment, use, and financing of satellite resources. This research proposes an enterprise-wide computing architecture to support a variety of geographically dispersed functional tasks yet centrally managed by SPACECOM.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

My research directly impacts on the efficiency and effectiveness of the SPACECOM organization.

Recent Publications


Research Description

My primary research interests include implementation of information systems in large organizations, group decision and negotiation support systems, crisis management support systems, and design of distributed knowledge-bases for organization decision making. My research has been funded by a number of DoD agencies (such as the Office of the Director of Defense Information, SPACECOM, NAVAIR, TRADOC) and international science foundations (such as the Canada Council for Social Sciences, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Hong Kong Science Foundation).

Research Projects:

Collaborative Multimedia Systems for Crisis Management

Given the constant change in economic and social conditions, the formulation of a comprehensive strategic plan to deal with crises is an ever increasingly urgent, complex task. The proposed project applies state-of-the-art collaborative multimedia technology to the design of computer-based systems that support crisis management.

Negotiation Support Systems for Inter-Cultural Negotiation

This research focuses on the design, implementation and evaluation of negotiation support systems to support intercultural, multi-language negotiations. This approach seeks to expand current research in the field of computerized group decision and negotiation to an international context in which cultural and linguistic issues constitute an integral part of the negotiation process.
Relevance to DoD/DoN

The cost of application system development and maintenance in DoD is staggering. The search for lower cost alternatives to the current modus operandi has reached Holy Grail status. Radical solutions may be required. Approaching system development as a generative, dynamic phenomenon rather than a static structured process may offer insight into more effective ways to control this activity.

Research Description

Decision making and application system development are two vital activities for organizations in the Information Age. Both processes depend heavily upon models as vehicles for representing the context in which decisions are made and systems function. Conceptual modeling is central to understanding organizational requirements for computing technology.

My research has been primarily dedicated to the development of computing environments which facilitate the representation, integration, and understanding of mathematical models for decision making. Much of this work has involved static models such as mathematical programming, statistics, and database design.

My current interest is in information systems as evolutionary artifacts which are rich in dynamic behavior. Understanding the interplay between organizations and computing technology requires recognition of the essentially nonlinear, feedback-based nature of the phenomena being modeled. I am particularly interested in approaching enterprise modeling from this perspective and am looking to recent advances in the theory of complex adaptive systems as a guide for providing more robust models from which decision support and information systems can prosper.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Application Development

Research Description

The conventional process for developing application software has a long history of problems. The process can be characterized by the use of a disciplined structured methodology and programming in a 3GL procedural language. Applications under development are often delivered substantially over budget and schedule — or not at all. Worse, the applications, once delivered, often fail to meet the needs of users. Their inflexibility makes them expensive to maintain and difficult to adapt to changing needs.

A number of new approaches seem likely to make significant improvements in application development. These include the use of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products, application templates, reusable objects and components, middleware, and 4th-generation languages. A particular challenge is to provide integrated, interoperable systems in a client/server environment.

We are currently concentrating our research efforts on the development of information systems for the Naval Postgraduate School. The School provides a microcosm of the broader issues found throughout the Department of Defense: multiple networks, “stovepipe” (non-integrated) application programs, and lack of a powerful infrastructure. Our initial focus is on enhancing the campus network, providing standard directory and e-mail services, and performing a workflow analysis of administrative systems. Once an effective infrastructure is put in place, we will develop applications using COTS products, Middleware, and a client/server-based 4GL. The intention is to develop guidelines for application development, based on our experience at NPS.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

DoD spends about $30 billion a year on software development and maintenance. Cost is not the only concern: the emerging “information warfare” environment makes effective software development of great strategic importance. Improving the process of developing and maintaining application software is therefore of enormous importance to DOD.

Recent Publications


Barry Frew  
Associate Professor  
MS, Naval Postgraduate School, 1984  
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bfrew@nps.navy.mil

Research Areas

Executive IT Management and Education; Software Engineering, Project Management, & Enterprise Integration

Research Description

My research examines various approaches to executive education with respect to information technology management issues within DoN. In addition, it involves the study of critical success factors for IT management within DoD/DoN activities; My research also involves the study of various approaches to integrating and interconnecting applications to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide information management support. The intent is to develop real applications for real use at NPS (because NPS is viewed as a microcosm of DoN/DoD’s information environment), using a wide spectrum of technical approaches.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

TOPSAIL, the result of this work, is a program for systematic and complete coverage of Information Technology Management topics for Navy Flag Officers and SES civilian employees. The topics covered include information management issues relevant to DoN high level managers. This high level education program is envisioned as a tool for improving decisions with respect to the selection, acquisition, deployment, use and maintenance of information system resources throughout the DoN.

Recent Publications

Recent Publications


Research Areas

System Productivity Metrics

Research Description

I am an émigré from organization theory where I enjoyed a minor reputation for identifying the role-making process in organizations. My IT interests are two-fold. First, I am concerned about the research methods used to assess the productivity of information systems. Secondly, I am drawn to look at the impact of information technology upon work relationships in organizations and upon society and culture at large.

I measured the effectiveness of the SACONS and APADE contract-generation systems by collecting field data on inputs and outputs in a pre-experimental design. I wrote a case study of DOD’s consolidation and standardization of information systems through its Corporate Information Management program. I assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing guidance for DOD managers to undertake business process re-engineering. To this end, I directed the development of the REAP database. I also proposed an automation of the budget forecasting and planning module of the Navy Bureau of Medicine’s executive information system.

I recently helped Fleet Numerical Meterology and Oceanographic Center experiment with focus groups as a means to assess system effectiveness from their customers’ perspective.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

My work has helped DoD organizations considering off-the-shelf software for the automation of small purchases and contracts. I have directly assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing a database of organizations that are candidates for benchmarking.
Research Areas

Interoperability and Integration of Heterogeneous Databases

Research Description

Interoperability and integration of heterogeneous databases is one of the main challenges facing today’s medium and large-size organizations. We are currently pursuing two different approaches to address this problem.

The first approach addresses the theoretical and practical issues associated with building systems that facilitate interoperability and integration of existing systems while preserving their autonomy and considerable investment. Foremost of these issues is the identification and resolution of semantic heterogeneity that exists among these systems. To address that issue, we have developed a comprehensive framework for identifying, classifying, and resolving semantic heterogeneity for different data models.

The second approach investigates methodologies to gradually reverse-engineer old systems into new integrated and cleanly structured systems that follow modern principles of good design, conform with the data and process models of the enterprise, and comply with accepted standards, therefore increasing their ability to share information with other systems in addition to being easily maintained and enhanced.

Recent Publications


Relevance to DoD/DoN

One of the main challenges facing DoD/DoN is the proliferation of a large variety of incompatible database systems and their associated applications. As the number of databases increases, so does the need to interoperate many of those applications and integrate them into an overall strategic information system.

Our work addresses these issues by investigating the theoretical and practical issues involved in building systems to facilitate the interoperation and integration of these systems and by addressing the issue of reverse engineering legacy system into modern systems that facilitate data sharing and integration.
Balasubramaniam Ramesh  
Assistant Professor  
PhD, New York UNIV, 1992  
(408) 656-2439  
ramesh@nps.navy.mil

Research Areas

Knowledge-Based Support for Systems Development

Research Description

Large scale systems development and maintenance efforts are often hindered because much of the richness of the design process, namely the design rationale, involving the deliberations on alternative design decisions is lost in the course of designing and changing such systems. We have developed a model that is geared towards capturing the rationales behind design decisions and using this knowledge to reason about changes in design decisions. The use of this model for representation and reasoning with rationale behind requirements and design decisions will greatly aid the development and maintenance of large scale systems. A major objective of our research is to elevate the process of systems maintenance to the level of specifications and the rationale behind their creation. Development of models and mechanisms to capture and reuse rationale to support various systems development activities is the primary focus of this work.

Development of complex, mission critical systems involves modification, refinement and evolution of initial requirements that lead to design solutions. In order to provide intelligent and useful support to the process of design and maintenance, a formal representation of the linkages between the design solutions, the requirements and their sources is essential. A comprehensive traceability scheme should not only identity traceability linkages to be maintained, but also provide the mechanisms to support use in systems development and maintenance activities. Based on an extensive empirical study of systems development personnel, we have developed several models for requirements traceability.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

Reducing systems development and maintenance costs and improving the quality and reliability of systems are of major concern for the DoD/DoN. Our work focuses on developing models and mechanisms that will help capture knowledge about the systems development process and use this knowledge to support a variety of stakeholders involved in development and maintenance of the system as well as in future projects. Such a reuse of process knowledge is expected to increase systems development and productivity significantly.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Software Reliability and Software Metrics

Research Description

Software Reliability

Research was conducted on the feasibility of optimally selecting failure data in order to identify the optimal set of model parameters that would result in maximum predictive accuracy, using the Schneidewind Software Reliability Model as a vehicle for the research. The research showed that significantly improved reliability predictions can be obtained by using a subset of the failure data, based on applying the appropriate criteria, and using the Space Shuttle On-Board software as an example.

Software Metrics

A comprehensive metrics validation methodology was developed that has six validation criteria which support the quality functions: assessment, control and prediction. New criteria were defined and illustrated, including: consistency, discriminative power, tracking and repeatability. It was shown that non-parametric statistical methods play an important role in evaluating metrics against the validity criteria. It was also shown how metrics that have been validated on a current project can be applied on a future project. A non-parametric statistical method was developed for finding the critical (i.e., threshold) values of metrics. Critical values are identified by applying the discriminative power criterion and are applied in quality control to identify potentially low quality software. It was shown how to do a cost sensitivity analysis on the critical values in order to tradeoff the cost of inspection against the cost of software failures. Lastly, it was shown how metrics that have been validated against the criteria discriminative power and tracking can be used in maintenance to: 1) establish quality control objectives; and 2) prioritize software components (e.g., modules) and allocate resources to maintain them.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

As a result of my software reliability research, an enhanced version of the Schneidewind Software Reliability Model was implemented in Version 5 of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) SMERFS software reliability tool, which has been acquired by numerous DoD agencies and contractors. In addition, the model is used at NSWC for research in reliability prediction and analysis of the TRIDENT I and II Fire Control Software.

My software metrics research has also been applied by NSWC to validate metrics for quality assurance of the TRIDENT I and II Fire Control Software.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Decision Making and Decision Support in Dynamic Environments, Computer-Supported Collaborative Work, Multimedia and Intelligent Tutoring Systems

Research Description

My principal research interests are in the cognitive aspects of behavioral decision theory and their application to the design of information systems. Research in this area is driven by two broad goals: to engage in a systematic study of how decisions are made in individual and collaborative situations, and to apply the findings in formulating design principles for decision support systems.

Within the context of these objectives, I have pursued three themes: feedback/feed forward, dynamic decision environments, and collaborative work. My work on feedback and feed forward examines the comparative efficacies of different types of feedback and feed forward mechanisms (particularly cognitive feedback) in improving decision quality. Much of this work has been conducted in dynamic decision environments in the context of individual and collaborative work situations. The research questions have been examined in experimental settings with computer-supported microworlds that incorporate the complexities and sophistication of real-world settings.

My work in multimedia concerns the use of the technology in the development of interactive instructional systems. I am currently examining the feasibility of building systems in domains that require perceptual learning. One such application is in the area of night vision goggles, which are used by aviators for flying at night. Night vision goggles create a representation of the external environment that is dramatically different from that perceived in daylight conditions. Flying in such environments, therefore, requires extensive training. My research in this area entails building a prototype instructional system that incorporates multimedia, night vision imagery, and synthetic visual environments.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

The relevance of my research on dynamic environments to the DoD/DoN lies in the fact that military decision situations tend to be complex, uncertain, and dynamic. Thus, the ability to provide effective decision support is important to performance in such environments.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Telecommunication Systems and Decision Support Systems

Research Description

The dramatic changes in computing technology coupled with increased demands for computing power has led several organizations to shift towards distributed computing systems. Thus, tasks are processed in parallel by several processors under this scenario. One of the major research issues in this area is to optimally balance the workload among several processors. Load balancing can be either static or dynamic. We have proposed improved algorithms for the static load balancing problem where the workload can be distributed in any proportion among the processors. This also serves as a lower bound for cases where the tasks cannot be split among processors. We are currently developing algorithms for the dynamic load balancing problem.

The field of mobile communication networks is another area which is becoming increasingly important. For example, cellular networks, which fall under this category, have been growing at an explosive rate. The objective of this research is to develop optimal policies for configuring cellular networks. In particular, this research will address the following issues: management of existing facilities, investment in expanding existing facilities and configuring new facilities, and the impact of these decisions on the quality of service. It attempts to answer questions such as: What policies are required to effectively manage the network? When is a policy most effective? What are the implications of using one policy over another? It attempts to incorporate the various technical, operating and regulatory constraints in developing the optimal policies. Finally, it examines the implications of using these policies for managerial decision-making.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

The results from the above research can be useful for various agencies of the DoD/DoN in improving the effectiveness of command and control. Modern warfare requires quick deployment of personnel and sophisticated weapon systems. The use of mobile communication systems such as cellular networks enhance the provision of tactical communications to deployed forces who are constantly on the move. By using optimal policies in configuring such networks, it is possible to ensure their cost-effectiveness and maintain the specified quality of service.

Recent Publications


Faculty Research Areas

The Information Technology Management Group's current research efforts fall into the following five broad categories:

• Model Management
• Database Management Systems
• Decision Support and Expert Systems
• Software Engineering and Applications Development
• Networks and Communications

A brief overview of each category is presented below.

Model Management

The role of modeling is central to the understanding of organizations and to the development of information systems that meet the needs of organizations. Models are used in decision making as well as information systems analysis and design. Creating computer-based environments wherein complex models can be easily represented, manipulated, integrated, and understood is an important objective of software engineering and decision support.

Professor Daniel Dolk’s academic contributions have been in the design and construction of software environments to support mathematical programming and statistical analysis. This requires the synthesis of many different fields, including database management, artificial intelligence, operations research, cognitive psychology, and software engineering.

His current interests are in object-oriented enterprise modeling, complex adaptive systems, and symbiotic, or active, modeling systems that incorporate neural network, genetic algorithms, and expert system technology to actively assist the user in data exploration as a precursor for building "good" statistical models.

Computer-aided modeling environments, or model management systems, are designed to facilitate the construction, exercise, and management of mathematical models for decision making. Professor Bhargava’s research has contributed to the development of modeling environments in a variety of ways; his niche in this field is in the use of formal logic in developing representation and reasoning models for important components of these systems.

Some topics investigated in Professor Bhargava’s research involve modeling principles and philosophy, architectures for modeling environments, and system functions that involve qualitative and symbolic reasoning. A chief contribution of his research is the embedded languages technique that provides an architecture for building modeling environments, allows these systems to represent and reason with a variety of qualitative information, and integrates multiple modeling languages.
Database Management Systems

Databases and database technology are having a major impact on the growing use of computers. They play a major role in almost every information system technology and all areas where computers are used.

Professor Kamel’s main research interest area is the design, implementation, and application of database systems. Specifically, he is interested in data modeling and query languages, data quality, data integrity, object-oriented database systems, integration of databases with decision support and expert systems, and interoperability and integration issues of heterogeneous databases.

The last issue, interoperability and integration of heterogeneous databases, is of particular interest and is the focus of his current research activity. He is pursuing two different approaches to address this problem. The first approach addresses the theoretical and practical issues associated with building systems that facilitate interoperability and integration of existing systems while preserving their autonomy and considerable investment. The second approach investigates methodologies to gradually reverse-engineer old systems into new integrated and cleanly structured systems that follow modern principles of good design, conform with the data and process models of the enterprise, and comply with accepted standards, therefore increasing their ability to share information with other systems in addition to being easily maintained and enhanced.

Publications:


Decision Support and Expert Systems

Decision Support Systems

Computer-based systems to support the various aspects of decision making, including generation of alternatives, their evaluation and choice.

Sridhar’s work focuses on group decision support systems to address the challenges of meetings distributed in time and space. A prototype system called the “Computer Mediated Meeting Management” (CM3) has been developed to facilitate group consensus formation and to enhance the group decision making processes.

The CM3 system supports participant anonymity, triggering of new thought processes, group memory providing fully documented meetings, and the ability to support long duration meetings. In addition, it supports dynamic formation of subgroups within meetings. It consists of several modules for question generation, brainstorming, consolidation, voting, ranking and resource allocation.

Publications:


Decision Making in Dynamic Environments

Research in dynamic decision environments is motivated by the recognition that many decision situations (such as combat decision making) are dynamic in nature. Research in this area is typically carried out with three objectives:

- Ascertain how individuals and groups cope with complex dynamic environments.
- Design appropriate organizational structures to facilitate adaptation by teams in such environments, and
- Establish design principles for building decision support systems for dynamic environments.

Professor Kishore Sengupta’s contribution in this area has been in expanding our understanding of how individuals and groups make decisions in such environments, and in establishing the comparative efficacies of different feedback and feedforward mechanisms in dynamic environments. He is currently examining the question of adaptive coordination in the context of an ONR-funded project on flexible organizations.

Publications:

Instructional Multimedia Systems

Instructional multimedia systems offer the potential of engendering fundamental changes in the way we learn. The design of effective instructional systems thus carries important implications for training and education in the workplace. The objective of this project is to develop and evaluate interactive multimedia systems for instruction in complex tasks.

Professor Kishore Sengupta's contribution to this project has been primarily in the design and construction of multimedia systems for instruction. Much of this work has been conducted in the context of training for night vision goggles. Night vision goggles are being used widely by aviators for flying in night time and low light conditions. Such goggles are used for a wide variety of tasks, ranging from combat missions to medical evacuation procedures. The representation of the external world offered by night vision goggles is dramatically different from normal (daylight) perception. Thus, without adequate training in the use of these goggles, even otherwise experienced aviators are prone to committing errors that would not normally occur in daylight conditions. In the absence of suitable training mechanisms, the increasing use of night vision goggles has been accompanied by a dramatic rise in accident rates.

As part of a multi-year project funded by the Naval Air Systems Command, Professor Sengupta is building a hypermedia instructional system that will enable aviators to learn critical perceptual skills required for the effective use of night vision goggles. The system will provide self-paced instruction, along with practice and rehearsal sessions. The system will also evaluate students on their progress.

Publications:


SOFTWARE ENGINEERING AND APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

Software Engineering and Project Management

Professor Abdel-Hamid has focused on applying the system dynamics modeling technique to study the dynamics of software project management. This has led to the development of a hierarchy of interrelated models to study single-project dynamics, multi-project dynamics (e.g., multiple projects sharing common resources), and organization-wide dynamics (e.g., impacts of organization-wide policies for software reuse). Through modeling and simulation, these models serve as “experimentation laboratories” to study software project management phenomena and gain a better understanding of the dynamically complex interactions and trade-offs that characterize software project management.

Professor Abdel-Hamid is also working on the development of “intelligent” tutoring interfaces to the system dynamics models of software project management in order to use them as “learning laboratories” for software project managers. (This is analogous to the use of flight simulators in training pilots.)
Software Reliability

Since software process and product evolve over time, software reliability models should be designed to selectively use failure data to reflect this fact. To meet this need, a software reliability model with optimal selection of failure data was developed.

Professor Schneidewind has developed a software reliability model that is used by LORAL Space Information Systems and NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston to assist in making reliability predictions of the Space Shuttle flight software. The model predicts time to next failure and remaining failures to help assure the flight worthiness of the Shuttle software. These predictions, along with many other quality assurance techniques, provide confidence prior to launch that there will be no critical (i.e., loss of life or mission) software failures during a Shuttle mission.

This model is one of only four models recommended by the American National Standards Institute/American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Recommended Practice for Software Reliability. The Schneidewind model is also one of the models included in the Statistical Modeling and Estimation of Reliability Functions for Software (SMERFS) tool, developed by the Naval Surface Warfare Center, which has been acquired by hundreds of government, industrial, and academic organizations.

For the development of this model and other contributions to software measurement, Dr. Schneidewind was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in 1992.

Publications:


Software Metrics

The measurement of the productivity of information systems is a critical element in the legitimation, funding and development of information technology. The attraction of convenient surrogate metrics for productivity raises the possibility that the management and support structure for information technology, although not the technology itself, may drift into irrelevance. Developing metrics of system productivity that are validated with behavioral anchors or employ non-obtrusive instrumentation is essential to gaining support for information technology from increasingly skeptical decision makers in the top levels of management.

Professor William Haga's research efforts have included the measurement of the effectiveness of the SACONS and APADE contract-generation systems through the collection of field data on inputs and outputs in a pre-experimental design. He has assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing guidance for DOD managers who undertake business process re-engineering. To this end, he directed the development of the REAP database. He also proposed an automation of the budget forecasting and planning module of the Navy Bureau of Medicine's executive information system.

His emerging interest is in examining the impact of information technology upon work relationships in organizations and upon society and culture at large.

Publications:


Application Development

Application development is concerned with the translation of information systems requirements into a working system that satisfies the requirements.

Professor Emery's recent research has focused on the problem of developing application software. The conventional software development process — employing a multi-phased structured design process and writing custom programs in a procedural language — has led to frequent budget and schedule overruns and systems that often do not meet the changing needs of users.

A variety of new approaches to application development appear to offer substantial potential for improving the process. Included are the use of application packages, templates, reusable objects and components, "middleware" products to integrate components, and "4th generation languages."

Professors Emery and Frew are studying various approaches to integrating and interconnecting applications to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide information management support. The intent is to develop real applications for real use at NPS, because the school is viewed as a microcosm of DoD's information environment. A wide spectrum of technical approaches is being used, including the implementation of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products for client/server use of work-group, work-flow products for document management and fourth generation (4GL) application development tools. The strategy is to use DoD processes and standards in building interoperable applications in order to develop a model for wider use within DoD/DoN.
Publications:


NETWORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed Systems and Computer Networks

A paradigm has been developed for the system and software design of distributed systems, with application to large scale computer networks consisting of local area networks interconnected by a wide area network.

Professor Schneidewind has developed a paradigm for the system and software design of distributed systems with application to the Navy's Stock Point Logistics Integrated Communications Environment (SPLICE), which is a distributed computer network for providing high speed logistics transaction processing to support the Navy's world-wide material requirements. The system consists of local computer networks and an interconnecting wide area network, the Defense Data Network.

A number of design principles are offered with particular reference to how they can be applied to the design of distributed systems. The major contribution to the field of distributed systems is an explanation of how to make design decisions about distributed systems in a way that will enhance maintainability and understandability of the software and, at the same time, result in good system performance. An additional objective is to recognize the implications for software quality of various decisions which must be made in the process of specifying a distributed system.

Publications:


Telecommunication Systems

Professor Sridhar is interested in the use of quantitative and qualitative tools for modeling, analysis, design and management of telecommunication systems.

Sridhar has developed algorithms for optimally balancing a given workload among processors with preassigned loads, in a distributed computing system. The processors may either have equal or unequal processing rates. The analysis considers the case where perfect load balancing is possible, as well as the case where only approximate load balancing is possible.
His current research focuses on the economic aspects of configuring cellular networks. A model has been developed to determine the system configuration which will maximize the annual expected net revenues. The study includes an analysis of the impact of changes in design parameters on system configuration, the cost of competition, and its implications for the regulatory agency.

Publications:


There are three centers/laboratories:

- Decision and Information Systems Research Center
- Multimedia Research Laboratory
- Software Metrics Research Center

A brief overview of each center/laboratory follows.

DECISION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH CENTER

The Decision and Information Systems Research Center (DISC) was established at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1995. Its research focus is on the design, implementation, and analysis of information systems directed at organizational computing and decision making. The Center currently has 12 associated faculty, representing backgrounds and research interests in decision sciences, software development, networking, and interoperability and integration of information technologies and modeling methodologies. DISC provides a common identity for related research projects as well as various support services. The Center runs an active seminar series drawing speakers from various universities, industry, DoD organizations and research laboratories.

DISC faculty research is sponsored by a broad range of funding agencies, including several in the Department of Defense. Current topics being researched by the Center’s faculty include:

- The use of the internet for sharing decision-oriented information technologies
- Development of multimedia-capable intelligent-tutoring technologies
- Evolutionary computing
- Investigation of new paradigms for developing organizational computing software
- Development of guidelines for the migration to an integrated and interoperable client-server architecture

Further information about the Center is available via the World Wide Web (http://sm.nps.navy.mil/DISC/disc.html), via electronic mail (disc@sm.nps.navy.mil), or by calling the Professor Hemant Bhargava at (408) 656-2264.

MULTIMEDIA RESEARCH LABORATORY

The objective of the effort is to provide a vehicle for conducting interdisciplinary research on instructional technology and in information systems that utilize evolving multimedia technologies. The facility has been in existence since 1992 and is used by faculty and students from the Information Systems, Aviation Safety, and Command & Control areas. The laboratory provides multimedia
computing facilities for two platforms: MS-DOS/Windows based and UNIX based systems. Currently, we have a network of Sun workstations as well as high-end MS-DOS-based machines.

The faculty and students involved with the laboratory are pursuing research on a variety of topics, much of it in cooperation with different units of the Navy and other services. Principal areas of research include:

- Development of a prototype computer-based system for training on night vision goggles
- Application of Multimedia for Capturing Design Rationale
- Design and Implementation of an Expert Advisor for Maintenance of the Mark-92 Fire Control System
- Development of Interactive Education Media

For further information, contact Professor Sengupta, Director of the Multimedia Research Laboratory at Phone: (408) 656-3212 or via E-mail: kishore@nps.navy.mil

SOFTWARE METRICS RESEARCH CENTER

Increasingly, DoD is requiring the use of metrics in software development contracts. Although there have been significant achievements in this area, there exists gaps in theory and practice. Among these are validation methodologies, process methodologies, databases, metrics tools, and cost analyses. The Software Metrics Research Center was established in response to DoD needs to address these issues. Here students and faculty tackle such issues as integration of metrics methodology into the software life-cycle process, development of metrics tools, and general metrics research. Current research projects include:

- Space Shuttle Software Reliability and Metrics
- A Software Reliability Model with Optimal Selection of Failure Data

For further information, contact Professor Schneidewind, Director of the Software Metrics Research Center at Phone: (408) 656-2719 or via E-mail: Schneidewind@nps.navy.mil
Recent Research Sponsors

Army Artificial Intelligence Center
Army Strategic Logistics Agency (SLA)
Canada Council for Research in Social Sciences
Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Department of the Army
Coast Guard
Commander Military Sealift Command (MSC)
Commander Naval Aviation, Pacific
Credit Suisse, Information Systems Center of the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland
Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)
Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)
Hong Kong Competitive Earmarked Research Grant
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Marine Corp, Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA)
Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)
Naval Center for Cost Analysis
Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)
Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC)-Dahlgren Division
Naval Surface Warfare Center -Port Hueneme Division
Office of Naval Research (ONR)
Pacific Bell
Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research
Recent Publications

1995 Publications


1994 Publications


1993 Publications


1992 Publications


1991 Publications


1990 Publications


APPENDIX D. ELECTRONIC PAGE DESIGNS
Welcome
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DISCLAIMER: This is just a temporary home page for the Systems Management
Department in the absence of any other official department page. We take no personal responsibility for ensuring completeness of the information on this page.

The Department of Systems Management can be reached at (408) 656-2472.

- Systems Management Department Chair, Mr. Ruben T. Harris
- Overview of Systems Management Department
- Research Centers
- Curricula
  - Information Technology Management
  - Transportation Logistics Management
  - Transportation Management
  - Acquisition & Contract Management
  - Systems Acquisition Management
  - Allied Officers, DoD Civilians, USA, USMC and USCG
  - Systems Inventory Management
  - Resource Planning and Management for International Defense
  - Material Logistics Support Management
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*This server supports and utilizes Netscape (Copyright) enhanced extensions.*

*Your Browser Software: Mozilla/1.1N (X11; I; SunOS 4.1.3 sun4m)*
Letter from the Chairman

Overview of IT Group
Welcome! I want to introduce you to the Department of Systems Management at the Naval Postgraduate School. Our department has the largest and most diverse faculty and student body at the Naval Postgraduate School. We have eleven different curricula, ranging from financial management to acquisition and contract management to information technology management. With over seventy full-time faculty and more than 500 graduate students, we proudly claim to be DoD's premier Graduate School of Management.

This brochure is one of our ways of establishing closer connection with our customers present and future who are interested in Information Systems, one of our core areas of expertise. Over the past six years we've built one of the best information systems faculties in the world. The purpose of this brochure is to describe the faculty their accomplishments, capabilities, and aspirations and to showcase their achievements that have impactfully addressed a range of DoD's recent and current problems. To be sure, this group of professionals is impressive both in terms of their educational preparation and their demonstrated commitment to advancing the frontiers of this important field.

As you peruse the following pages, I'm confident that you'll be as impressed with the achievements and potential of our faculty and their graduate student advisees as I've been these past few years. As you skim through the narratives that describe my colleagues interests and capabilities or as you review the summaries of our collective areas of expertise, I'm sure you'll conclude that we offer a research and studies-and-analysis capability that is difficult to replicate.
Give me a call if you'd like further information on the Department of Systems Management and our abilities to assist you.
Overview

We are rapidly moving from an era of information scarcity to one of abundance. Until very recently, information technology was expensive, time consuming, and error prone; by historical standards, it is now cheap, fast, and reliable.

Because of these changes, the use of information technology often offers the most attractive means of increasing an organization's effectiveness and reducing its use of capital resources and personnel. The changes have been so profound that it is becoming common to regard the new era as the Information Age, in which information technology in all its forms becomes a fundamental determinant of a nation's or organization's ability to thrive in the Nineties and beyond.

The importance of information technology is, of course, widely recognized in the Navy and Department of Defense. For many technical, economic, demographic, and political reasons, the U.S. must emphasize improved quality rather than quantity in its military force structure. Applications of computer technology provide one of the important avenues for achieving such quality. This is manifested in the growing proliferation and power of smart weapons. Information technology is important not only in weapons systems; it is also an essential ingredient in improved command and control systems. Success in C2 warfare and C4I for the warrior is totally dependent on wisely deployed information technology. Any fundamental improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of managing the military services for example, in logistics, human resource management, and financial control will almost certainly require the use of computer-based systems.

The most recent Defense Critical Technologies Plan selects 20 areas of technology that are regarded as the most critical in supporting the military needs of the United States. Information technology is a direct or indirect ingredient of almost all of these critical areas. Because of its leadership role in many aspects of information technology, the U.S. has gained an advantage compared to its potential military adversaries.

The Information Technology Management (ITM) group of the Systems Management Department of the Naval Postgraduate School consists of 13 faculty members. The masters program in ITM typical has an enrollment of about 100 students at a given point in time.
An important distinguishing characteristic of the faculty is its focus on the application of computer-based systems, especially in DoN/DoD environments. Although their work frequently involves advanced technology, it is not only advances in technology that motivate the teaching and research of the group. It is, rather, the understanding of existing technology and the development of new technology that potentially makes it possible to develop more efficient and effective information systems within the DoN/DoD context.

The ITM group provides a unique resource within the DoD. Its well-recognized competence and wide range of interests equips the group to provide assistance to DoN and DoD agencies in several ways. These can be broken down into 1) research, 2) prototype systems development, and 3) executive education.

**Research.** In order to tackle the increasingly difficult challenges of implementing effective information systems, management in the private sector as well as the DoD and other government agencies needs to gain a better understanding of the issues. The unique character and scale of the DoD makes it especially difficult to implement successful systems. There is a lot that we do not know about how systems can be made more effective, how we can develop them more quickly and cheaply, and how we can cope with the organizational changes required. The research being conducted by the ITM group is aimed at dealing with such questions.

The ITM group is well qualified to engage in multi-disciplinary research aimed at dealing with difficult problems recognized as important by the leadership of a DoN or DoD agency. The group is most effective in dealing with challenging research tasks that require deep technical competence, viewpoints drawn from multiple disciplines, and effort spread over a number of months or even a few years. Faculty members are motivated to publish the results of their research as contributions to technical and management literature.

**Prototype systems development.** Working as they do in an applied area, faculty members are generally interested in seeing their work put into practice. Although faculty members usually do not have the time to develop full-scale production systems, they can play a valuable role in assisting in the development of prototype systems that demonstrate and verify concepts. Contemporary application development tools particularly those available on microcomputers make it feasible to undertake significant development projects. Once a concept has been demonstrated as practical and useful, it is then generally possible for an appropriate technical group to translate the concept into a working production system.

The graduate students at NPS provide a valuable resource for doing such prototype
developments. They are typically quite experienced in DoD matters, and have been well trained in information technology. Furthermore, they have received the kind of breadth in related areas such as management, economics, accounting, etc, required to deal effectively with real world problems. Each student is required to perform a research project and write a thesis that represents a significant piece of work. A prototype project of the type envisioned here serves as an ideal source of thesis topics. Working closely with one or more faculty members, a highly professional team of students can be assembled to deal with important ITM topics.

**Executive education.** It is becoming increasingly well recognized that one of the critical success factors in applying information technology is to obtain executive leadership. The technical staff can be held responsible for developing good technical solutions, but the task of translating organizational needs into information systems specifications must come from the top leaders. That is the role for general management.

In order to play that role effectively, an executive should know something about the technology and how it can serve the needs of the organization. Such a leader need not should not be concerned with strictly technical matters. He or she does, however, need to know the strengths and weaknesses of information systems, have a reasonable appreciation for the difficulty of implementing a system, and understand the tradeoffs involved in balancing the costs and benefits of a proposed system.

The ITM group is well qualified to develop and present tailored executive education programs. It has wide experience in teaching in a variety of environments. Its special familiarity with DoN and DoD matters permits the group to use relevant and appropriate examples and case materials. It has the resources including graduate students seeking interesting thesis topics to develop tailored material for a particular DoD audience.
ITM Faculty

- Carl R. Jones Professor of Information and Telecommunication Systems
- Tarek K. Abdel-Hamid Associate Professor of Information Systems
- Hemant K. Bhargava Assistant Professor of Information Systems
- Rex Buddenberg Lecturer
- Tung X. Bui Professor of Information Systems
- Daniel R. Dolk Professor of Information Systems
- James Emery Professor of Information Systems
- Barry A. Frew Associate Professor of Information Systems
- William J. Haga Senior Lecturer
- Magdi Kamel Associate Professor of Information Systems
- Martin J. McCaffrey Visiting Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Acquisition and Contract Management
- Balasubramaniam Ramesh Assistant Professor of Information Systems
- Norman F. Schneidewind Professor of Information Systems
- Kishore Sengupta Associate Professor of Information Systems
- William B. Short Lecturer
- Suresh Sridhar Visiting Assistant Professor of Information Systems
- Myung W. Suh Assistant Professor of Information Systems
- Moshe Zviran Assistant Professor of Information Systems

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Research Areas

Software Engineering, Project Management, Software Reuse, Dynamic Decision Making, and System Dynamics

Research Description

Over the last ten years, my research has focused on applying the system dynamics modeling technique to study the dynamics of software project management. This has led to the development of a hierarchy of interrelated models to study single-project dynamics, multi-project dynamics (e.g., multiple projects sharing common resources), and organization-wide dynamics (e.g., impacts of organization-wide policies for software reuse). Through modeling and simulation, these models serve as experimentation laboratories to study software project management phenomena and gain a better understanding of the dynamically complex interactions and trade-offs that characterize software project management.

In addition, the models serve as computer-based management support tools to evaluate/design organizational policies (e.g., setting software reuse goals, allocating quality assurance resources, etc.). The models are currently being used in more than forty organizations worldwide (organizations such as NASA, Hewlett-Packard, and Siemens).

I am using my suite of simulation tools as experimentation microworlds to study dynamic decision making in the software management domain (e.g., study the impact of individualistic versus cooperative reward schemes on project resource allocations). I am also working on the development of intelligent tutoring interfaces to the system dynamics models of software project management in order to use them as learning laboratories for NPS students and DoD software project managers. (This is analogous to the use of flight
simulators in training pilots.)

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

The impressive innovations in the technology of software production that have been made over the last three decades have not been matched by a corresponding maturity in the capability to manage the production of software. As a result, there continues to be too many project failures, marked by cost overruns, late deliveries, poor reliability, and user dissatisfaction.

Recently, it has become more and more evident within DoD that in software, product innovation is no longer the primary bottleneck to progress, the bottleneck is project management innovation.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Decision Support Systems, Computer-Aided Modeling, Logic Modeling, Artificial Intelligence

Research Description

My research is focused on the decision sciences, and involves computer-aided mathematical modeling, logic modeling, and artificial intelligence. My current work develops methods for using the Internet to allow global sharing of computer-based decision technologies. My general research interests include the modeling process, developing formal languages and systems for modeling and reasoning, and exploring the interface qualitative and quantitative methods for modeling and reasoning.

Research Projects:

DecisionNet

The DecisionNet project aims to develop software infrastructure that offers access to a globally distributed network of modeling and decision support systems. Using the World Wide Web, DecisionNet allows providers to publicize and make available their technologies to consumers who can search, connect to, and use them. The project investigates several issues arising from the creation of this electronic marketplace of decision technologies.
Integrated Modeling Environments

Computer-aided modeling environments are designed to facilitate the construction, exercise, and management of mathematical models for decision making. Representative topics investigated in this project are: Philosophy and principles of modeling; Embedded languages as an architecture for modeling systems; Extensions to formal modeling languages; Computer-aided model construction.

Post-evaluation Analysis of Mathematical Models

What-if analysis is a standard feature in decision support systems. We investigate how computer-aided modeling systems may be used to search -intelligently and automatically -complex decision spaces in order to find high quality policy options.

Fleet Mix Planning

Fleet mix planning involves determining the optimal mix of assets that an organization must hold in order to optimize its defined objective while satisfying environmental and organizational constraints. We survey methods for fleet planning, and develop models and decision policies for fleet mix planning in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

Professor Bhargava's research has been funded by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Army Artificial Intelligence Center, and by funds from DARPA/ASTO.

Recent Publications


Bhargava, H.K., R. Krishnan, and S. Mukherjee. On the Integration of Algebraic and


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**Recommended Links**

Hemant Bhargava’s WWW Home Page
Hemant Bhargava’s Decision Support Systems Page
Hemant Bhargava’s Computer-Aided Modeling Page

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Naval Postgraduate School Home page

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*Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil*

*Last Update On:*
Research Areas

Computer Networks, High Availability Networking, and Radio-WAN Development

Research Description

My research specializes in adaptation of commercial networking technology for military purposes with focus on maintained high availability. Military and civilian emergency services requirements for Computer networks generally include:

- High availability and survivability
- Extension of internetworks into radio-WAN environment to reach mobile platforms
- Security requirements that exceed commercial Internet needs. My work focuses on these areas

Radio-based WAN requirements impact protocol suites in different ways than conventional wired networks. Testbed and protocol design requirements in this area includes:

- Low interactivity networks
- Reliable multicast
- Mobile hosts
- Multiple data types with multiple QoS needs
- Incorporation of one-way data feeds into networks
- Fast setup requirements

Developing evolutionary action plans that allow incremental growth and real action with
recognition that requirements are not well known or defined is required to achieve the desired goals in High Availability Networking.

These two requirements lead to several contributory topics that include:

- Low Earth Orbit satellites
- Wireless network technology development
- Network management
- Secure messaging
- Network protocol architecture
- Export education to USCG, NAVSEA, NRaD on networking
- Consulting and research work to NAVSEA (submarinesyscom), SPAWAR (Next Generation Computer Resources), NAVAIR (NavAirWide Area Network), and ARPA (network-to-fleet)
- Program planning, prototype work for Joint Oceanographic Institution and Taking the Internet to Sea for the Oceanographic Fleet

My research project, Taking the Internet to Sea, can be found at http://vislab-www.nps.navy.mil/~seanet.

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

Continued operations and high levels of survivability are often required for today’s computer networks. With regards to WANs, taking the Internet to the fleet represents major improvement in C3I systems.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Decision and Negotiation Support Systems, Implementation of Information Systems in Large Organizations

Research Description

My primary research interests include implementation of information systems in large organizations, group decision and negotiation support systems, crisis management support systems, and design of distributed knowledge-bases for organization decision making. My research has been funded by a number of DoD agencies (such as the Office of the Director of Defense Information, SPACECOM, NAVAIR, TRADOC) and international science foundations (such as the Canada Council for Social Sciences, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Hong Kong Science Foundation).

Research Projects:

Collaborative Multimedia Systems for Crisis Management

Given the constant change in economic and social conditions, the formulation of a comprehensive strategic plan to deal with crises is an ever increasingly urgent, complex task. The proposed project applies state-of-the-art collaborative multimedia technology to the design of computer-based systems that support crisis management.

Negotiation Support Systems for Inter-Cultural Negotiation

This research focuses on the design, implementation and evaluation of negotiation support systems to support intercultural, multi-language negotiations. This approach seeks to expand current research in the field of computerized group decision and
negotiation to an international context in which cultural and linguistic issues constitute an integral part of the negotiation process.

**Supporting Argumentation in Software Development Project**

The purpose of this research is to develop an argumentation language to support software development projects managed in a geographically dispersed setting and in an asynchronous mode.

**Design of a Distributed Decision Support System for Optimizing the Utilization of Military Satellite Resources**

The management of military telecommunications services in a crisis situation requires adhoc, quick planning and negotiation among different organizations involved in the deployment, use, and financing of satellite resources. This research proposes an enterprise-wide computing architecture to support a variety of geographically dispersed functional tasks yet centrally managed by SPACECOM.

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

My research directly impacts on the efficiency and effectiveness of the SPACECOM organization.

**Recent Publications**


Daniel Dolk  
Professor  
PhD, UNIV of Arizona, 1982  
(408) 656-2260  
0541p@vml.cc.nps.navy.mil  

Research Areas  
Model Management and Evolutionary Information Systems  

Research Description  
Decision making and application system development are two vital activities for organizations in the Information Age. Both processes depend heavily upon models as vehicles for representing the context in which decisions are made and systems function. Conceptual modeling is central to understanding organizational requirements for computing technology.

My research has been primarily dedicated to the development of computing environments which facilitate the representation, integration, and understanding of mathematical models for decision making. Much of this work has involved static models such as mathematical programming, statistics, and database design.

My current interest is in information systems as evolutionary artifacts which are rich in dynamic behavior. Understanding the interplay between organizations and computing technology requires recognition of the essentially nonlinear, feedback-based nature of the phenomena being modeled. I am particularly interested in approaching enterprise modeling from this perspective and am looking to recent advances in the theory of complex adaptive systems as a guide for providing more robust models from which decision support and information systems can prosper.

Relevance to DoD/DoN  
The cost of application system development and maintenance in DoD is staggering. The
search for lower cost alternatives to the current modus operandi has reached Holy Grail status. Radical solutions may be required. Approaching system development as a generative, dynamic phenomenon rather than a static structured process may offer insight into more effective ways to control this activity.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Application Development

Research Description

The conventional process for developing application software has a long history of problems. The process can be characterized by the use of a disciplined structured methodology and programming in a 3GL procedural language. Applications under development are often delivered substantially over budget and schedule or not at all. Worse, the applications, once delivered, often fail to meet the needs of users. Their inflexibility makes them expensive to maintain and difficult to adapt to changing needs.

A number of new approaches seem likely to make significant improvements in application development. These include the use of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products, application templates, reusable objects and components, middleware, and 4th-generation languages. A particular challenge is to provide integrated, interoperable systems in a client/server environment.

We are currently concentrating our research efforts on the development of information systems for the Naval Postgraduate School. The School provides a microcosm of the broader issues found throughout the Department of Defense: multiple networks, stovepipe (non-integrated) application programs, and lack of a powerful infrastructure. Our initial focus is on enhancing the campus network, providing standard directory and e-mail services, and performing a work flow analysis of administrative systems. Once an effective infrastructure is put in place, we will develop applications using COTS products, Middleware, and a client/server-based 4GL. The intention is to develop guidelines for application development, based on our experience at NPS.
Relevance to DoD/DoN

DoD spends about $30 billion a year on software development and maintenance. Cost is not the only concern: the emerging information warfare environment makes effective software development of great strategic importance. Improving the process of developing and maintaining application software is therefore of enormous importance to DOD.

Recent Publications


Research Areas

Executive IT Management and Education; Software Engineering, Project Management, & Enterprise Integration

Research Description

My research examines various approaches to executive education with respect to information technology management issues within DoN. In addition, it involves the study of critical success factors for IT management within DoD/DoN activities; My research also involves the study of various approaches to integrating and interconnecting applications to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide information management support. The intent is to develop real applications for real use at NPS (because NPS is viewed as a microcosm of DoN/DoD's information environment), using a wide spectrum of technical approaches.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

TOPSAIL, the result of this work, is a program for systematic and complete coverage of Information Technology Management topics for Navy Flag Officers and SES civilian employees. The topics covered include information management issues relevant to DoN high level managers. This high level education program is envisioned as a tool for improving decisions with respect to the selection, acquisition, deployment, use and maintenance of information system resources throughout the DoN.

Recent Publications

Barbara L. Franklin -- blfrankl.nps.navy.mil
Research Areas

System Productivity Metrics

Research Description

I am an émigré from organization theory where I enjoyed a minor reputation for identifying the role-making process in organizations. My IT interests are two-fold. First, I am concerned about the research methods used to assess the productivity of information systems. Secondly, I am drawn to look at the impact of information technology upon work relationships in organizations and upon society and culture at large.

I measured the effectiveness of the SACONS and APADE contract-generation systems by collecting field data on inputs and outputs in a pre-experimental design. I wrote a case study of DOD's consolidation and standardization of information systems through its Corporate Information Management program. I assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing guidance for DOD managers to undertake business process re-engineering. To this end, I directed the development of the REAP database. I also proposed an automation of the budget forecasting and planning module of the Navy Bureau of Medicine's executive information system.

I recently helped Fleet Numerical Meterology and Oceanographic Center experiment with focus groups as a means to assess system effectiveness from their customers perspective.

Relevance to DoD/DoN
My work has helped DoD organizations considering off-the-shelf software for the automation of small purchases and contracts. I have directly assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing a database of organizations that are candidates for benchmarking.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Interoperability and Integration of Heterogeneous Databases

Research Description

Interoperability and integration of heterogeneous databases is one of the main challenges facing today's medium and large-size organizations. We are currently pursuing two different approaches to address this problem.

The first approach addresses the theoretical and practical issues associated with building systems that facilitate interoperability and integration of existing systems while preserving their autonomy and considerable investment. Foremost of these issues is the identification and resolution of semantic heterogeneity that exists among these systems. To address that issue, we have developed a comprehensive framework for identifying, classifying, and resolving semantic heterogeneity for different data models. The second approach investigates methodologies to gradually reverse-engineer old systems into new integrated and cleanly structured systems that follow modern principles of good design, conform with the data and process models of the enterprise, and comply with accepted standards, therefore increasing their ability to share information with other systems in addition to being easily maintained and enhanced.

Relevance to DoD/DoN

One of the main challenges facing DoD/DoN is the proliferation of a large variety of incompatible database systems and their associated applications. As the number of databases increases, so does the need to interoperate many of those applications and integrate them into an overall strategic information system.
Our work addresses these issues by investigating the theoretical and practical issues involved in building systems to facilitate the interoperation and integration of these systems and by addressing the issue of reverse engineering legacy systems into modern systems that facilitate data sharing and integration.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Knowledge-Based Support for Systems Development

Research Description

Large scale systems development and maintenance efforts are often hindered because much of the richness of the design process, namely the design rationale, involving the deliberations on alternative design decisions is lost in the course of designing and changing such systems. We have developed a model that is geared towards capturing the rationales behind design decisions and using this knowledge to reason about changes in design decisions. The use of this model for representation and reasoning with rationale behind requirements and design decisions will greatly aid the development and maintenance of large scale systems. A major objective of our research is to elevate the process of systems maintenance to the level of specifications and the rationale behind their creation. Development of models and mechanisms to capture and reuse rationale to support various systems development activities is the primary focus of this work.

Development of complex, mission critical systems involves modification, refinement and evolution of initial requirements that lead to design solutions. In order to provide intelligent and useful support to the process of design and maintenance, a formal representation of the linkages between the design solutions, the requirements and their sources is essential. A comprehensive traceability scheme should not only identity traceability linkages to be maintained, but also provide the mechanisms to support use in systems development and maintenance activities. Based on an extensive empirical study of systems development personnel, we have developed several models for requirements traceability.
**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

Reducing systems development and maintenance costs and improving the quality and reliability of systems are of major concern for the DoD/DoN. Our work focuses on developing models and mechanisms that will help capture knowledge about the systems development process and use this knowledge to support a variety of stakeholders involved in development and maintenance of the system as well as in future projects. Such a reuse of process knowledge is expected to increase systems development and productivity significantly.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Software Reliability and Software Metrics

Research Description

Software Reliability

Research was conducted on the feasibility of optimally selecting failure data in order to identify the optimal set of model parameters that would result in maximum predictive accuracy, using the Schneidewind Software Reliability Model as a vehicle for the research. The research showed that significantly improved reliability predictions can be obtained by using a subset of the failure data, based on applying the appropriate criteria, and using the Space Shuttle On-Board software as an example.

Software Metrics

A comprehensive metrics validation methodology was developed that has six validation criteria which support the quality functions: assessment, control and prediction. New criteria were defined and illustrated, including: consistency, discriminative power, tracking and repeatability. It was shown that non-parametric statistical methods play an important role in evaluating metrics against the validity criteria. It was also shown how metrics that have been validated on a current project can be applied on a future project. A non-parametric statistical method was developed for finding the critical (i.e., threshold) values of metrics. Critical values are identified by applying the discriminative power criterion and are applied in quality control to identify potentially low quality software. It was shown how to do a cost sensitivity analysis on the critical values in order to tradeoff the cost of inspection against the cost of software failures. Lastly, it was shown how metrics that have been validated against the criteria discriminative power and tracking can be used in maintenance to: 1) establish quality control objectives; and 2) prioritize...
software components (e.g., modules) and allocate resources to maintain them.

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

As a result of my software reliability research, an enhanced version of the Schneidewind Software Reliability Model was implemented in Version 5 of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) SMERFS software reliability tool, which has been acquired by numerous DoD agencies and contractors. In addition, the model is used at NSWC for research in reliability prediction and analysis of the TRIDENT I and II Fire Control Software.

My software metrics research has also been applied by NSWC to validate metrics for quality assurance of the TRIDENT I and II Fire Control Software.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Decision Making and Decision Support in Dynamic Environments, Computer-Supported Collaborative Work, Multimedia and Intelligent Tutoring Systems

Research Description

My principal research interests are in the cognitive aspects of behavioral decision theory and their application to the design of information systems. Research in this area is driven to two broad goals: to engage in a systematic study of how decisions are made in individual and collaborative situations, and to apply the findings in formulating design principles for decision support systems.

Within the context of these objectives, I have pursued three themes: feedback/feed forward, dynamic decision environments, and collaborative work. My work on feedback and feed forward examines the comparative efficacies of different types of feedback and feed forward mechanisms (particularly cognitive feedback) in improving decision quality. Much of this work has been conducted in dynamic decision environments in the context of individual and collaborative work situations. The research questions have been examined in experimental settings with computer-supported microworlds that incorporate the complexities and sophistication of real-world settings.

My work in multimedia concerns the use of the technology in the development of interactive instructional systems. I am currently examining the feasibility of building systems in domains that require perceptual learning. One such application is in the area of night vision goggles, which are used by aviators for flying at night. Night vision goggles create a representation of the external environment that is dramatically different from that perceived in daylight conditions. Flying in such environments, therefore, requires extensive training. My research in this area entails building a prototype instructional system that incorporates multimedia, night vision imagery, and synthetic
visual environments.

**Relevance to DoD/DoN**

The relevance of my research on dynamic environments to the DoD/DoN lies in the fact that military decision situations tend to be complex, uncertain, and dynamic. Thus, the ability to provide effective decision support is important to performance in such environments.

**Recent Publications**


Research Areas

Telecommunication Systems and Decision Support Systems

Research Description

The dramatic changes in computing technology coupled with increased demands for computing power has led several organizations to shift towards distributed computing systems. Thus, tasks are processed in parallel by several processors under this scenario. One of the major research issues in this area is to optimally balance the workload among several processors. Load balancing can be either static or dynamic. We have proposed improved algorithms for the static load balancing problem where the workload can be distributed in any proportion among the processors. This also serves as a lower bound for cases where the tasks cannot be split among processors. We are currently developing algorithms for the dynamic load balancing problem.

The field of mobile communication networks is another area which is becoming increasingly important. For example, cellular networks, which fall under this category, have been growing at an explosive rate. The objective of this research is to develop optimal policies for configuring cellular networks. In particular, this research will address the following issues: management of existing facilities, investment in expanding existing facilities and configuring new facilities, and the impact of these decisions on the quality of service. It attempts to answer questions such as: What policies are required to effectively manage the network? When is a policy most effective? What are the implications of using one policy over another? It attempts to incorporate the various technical, operating and regulatory constraints in developing the optimal policies. Finally, it examines the implications of using these policies for managerial decision-making.
Relevance to DoD/DoN

The results from the above research can be useful for various agencies of the DoD/DoN in improving the effectiveness of command and control. Modern warfare requires quick deployment of personnel and sophisticated weapon systems. The use of mobile communication systems such as cellular networks enhance the provision of tactical communications to deployed forces who are constantly on the move. By using optimal policies in configuring such networks, it is possible to ensure their cost-effectiveness and maintain the specified quality of service.

Recent Publications


Faculty Research Areas

The Information Technology Management Group’s current research efforts fall into the following five broad categories:

- Model Management
- Database Management Systems
- Decision Support and Expert Systems
- Software Engineering and Applications Development
- Networks and Communications

A brief overview of each category is presented below.

Model Management

The role of modeling is central to the understanding of organizations and to the development of information systems that meet the needs of organizations. Models are used in decision making as well as information systems analysis and design. Creating computer-based environments wherein complex models can be easily represented, manipulated, integrated, and understood is an important objective of software engineering and decision support.

Professor Daniel Dolk’s academic contributions have been in the design and construction of software environments to support mathematical programming and statistical analysis. This requires the synthesis of many different fields, including database management, artificial intelligence, operations research, cognitive psychology, and software engineering.

His current interests are in object-oriented enterprise modeling, complex adaptive systems, and symbiotic, or active, modeling systems that incorporate neural network, genetic algorithms, and expert system technology to actively assist the user in data exploration as a precursor for building good statistical models.

Computer-aided modeling environments, or model management systems, are designed to facilitate the construction, exercise, and management of mathematical models for decision making. Professor Bhargava’s research has contributed to the development of
modeling environments in a variety of ways; his niche in this field is in the use of formal logic in developing representation and reasoning models for important components of these systems.

Some topics investigated in Professor Bhargava's research involve modeling principles and philosophy, architectures for modeling environments, and system functions that involve qualitative and symbolic reasoning. A chief contribution of his research is the embedded languages technique that provides an architecture for building modeling environments, allows these systems to represent and reason with a variety of qualitative information, and integrates multiple modeling languages.

Publications:


Database Management Systems

Databases and database technology are having a major impact on the growing use of computers. They play a major role in almost every information system technology and all areas where computers are used.
Professor Kamel's main research interest area is the design, implementation, and application of database systems. Specifically, he is interested in data modeling and query languages, data quality, data integrity, object-oriented database systems, integration of databases with decision support and expert systems, and interoperability and integration issues of heterogeneous databases.

The last issue, interoperability and integration of heterogeneous databases, is of particular interest and is the focus of his current research activity. He is pursuing two different approaches to address this problem. The first approach addresses the theoretical and practical issues associated with building systems that facilitate interoperability and integration of existing systems while preserving their autonomy and considerable investment. The second approach investigates methodologies to gradually reverse-engineer old systems into new integrated and cleanly structured systems that follow modern principles of good design, conform with the data and process models of the enterprise, and comply with accepted standards, therefore increasing their ability to share information with other systems in addition to being easily maintained and enhanced.

Publications:


Decision Support and Expert Systems

Decision Support Systems

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Computer-based systems to support the various aspects of decision making, including generation of alternatives, their evaluation and choice.

Sridhar's work focuses on group decision support systems to address the challenges of meetings distributed in time and space. A prototype system called the Computer Mediated Meeting Management (CM3) has been developed to facilitate group consensus formation and to enhance the group decision making processes.

The CM3 system supports participant anonymity, triggering of new thought processes, group memory providing fully documented meetings, and the ability to support long duration meetings. In addition, it supports dynamic formation of subgroups within meetings. It consists of several modules for question generation, brainstorming, consolidation, voting, ranking and resource allocation.

Publications:

Gavish, B., J. Gerdes, and S. Sridhar. CM3, A Distributed Gr Support System. IIE TRANSACTIONS.


Decision Making in Dynamic Environments

Research in dynamic decision environments is motivated by the recognition that many decision situations (such as combat decision making) are dynamic in nature. Research in this area is typically carried out with three objectives:

- Ascertain how individuals and groups cope with complex dynamic environments,
- Design appropriate organizational structures to facilitate adaptation by teams in such environments, and
- Establish design principles for building decision support systems for dynamic environments.

Professor Kishore Sengupta's contribution in this area has been in expanding our understanding of how individuals and groups make decisions in such environments, and in establishing the comparative efficacies of different feedback and feedforward mechanisms in dynamic environments. He is currently examining the question of adaptive coordination in the context of an ONR-funded project on flexible organizations.
Instructional Multimedia Systems

Instructional multimedia systems offer the potential of engendering fundamental changes in the way we learn. The design of effective instructional systems thus carries important implications for training and education in the workplace. The objective of this project is to develop and evaluate interactive multimedia systems for instruction in complex tasks.

Professor Kishore Sengupta’s contribution to this project has been primarily in the design and construction of multimedia systems for instruction. Much of this work has been conducted in the context of training for night vision goggles. Night vision goggles are being used widely by aviators for flying in night time and low light conditions. Such goggles are used for a wide variety of tasks, ranging from combat missions to medical evacuation procedures. The representation of the external world offered by night vision goggles is dramatically different from normal (daylight) perception. Thus, without adequate training in the use of these goggles, even otherwise experienced aviators are prone to committing errors that would not normally occur in daylight conditions. In the absence of suitable training mechanisms, the increasing use of night vision goggles has been accompanied by a dramatic rise in accident rates.

As part of a multi-year project funded by the Naval Air Systems Command, Professor Sengupta is building a hypermedia instructional system that will enable aviators to learn critical perceptual skills required for the effective use of night vision goggles. The system will provide self-paced instruction, along with practice and rehearsal sessions. The system will also evaluate students on their progress.
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING AND APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

Software Engineering and Project Management

Professor Abdel-Hamid has focused on applying the system dynamics modeling technique to study the dynamics of software project management. This has led to the development of a hierarchy of interrelated models to study single-project dynamics, multi-project dynamics (e.g., multiple projects sharing common resources), and organization-wide dynamics (e.g., impacts of organization-wide policies for software reuse). Through modeling and simulation, these models serve as experimentation laboratories to study software project management phenomena and gain a better understanding of the dynamically complex interactions and trade-offs that characterize software project management.

Professor Abdel-Hamid is also working on the development of intelligent tutoring interfaces to the system dynamics models of software project management in order to use them as learning laboratories for software project managers. (This is analogous to the use of flight simulators in training pilots.)

Publications:


Software Reliability

Since software process and product evolve over time, software reliability models should be designed to selectively use failure data to reflect this fact. To meet this need, a software reliability model with optimal selection of failure data was developed.

Professor Schneidewind has developed a software reliability model that is used by LORAL Space Information Systems and NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston to assist in making reliability predictions of the Space Shuttle flight software. The model predicts time to next failure and remaining failures to help assure the flight worthiness of the Shuttle software. These predictions, along with many other quality assurance techniques, provide confidence prior to launch that there will be no critical (i.e., loss of life or mission) software failures during a Shuttle mission.

This model is one of only four models recommended by the American National Standards Institute/American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Recommended Practice for Software Reliability. The Schneidewind model is also one of the models included in the Statistical Modeling and Estimation of Reliability Functions for Software (SMERFS) tool, developed by the Naval Surface Warfare Center, which has been acquired by hundreds of government, industrial, and academic organizations. For the development of this model and other contributions to software measurement, Dr. Schneidewind was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in 1992.

Publications:


Schneidewind, Norman F. Software Reliability Model with Optima
Software Metrics

The measurement of the productivity of information systems is a critical element in the legitimation, funding and development of information technology. The attraction of convenient surrogate metrics for productivity raises the possibility that the management and support structure for information technology, although not the technology itself, may drift into irrelevance. Developing metrics of system productivity that are validated with behavioral anchors or employ non-obtrusive instrumentation is essential to gaining support for information technology from increasingly skeptical decision makers in the top levels of management.

Professor William Haga’s research efforts have included the measurement of the effectiveness of the SACONS and APADE contract-generation systems through the collection of field data on inputs and outputs in a pre-experimental design. He has assisted the Office of the Director of Defense Information in developing guidance for DOD managers who undertake business process re-engineering. To this end, he directed the development of the REAP database. He also proposed an automation of the budget forecasting and planning module of the Navy Bureau of Medicine’s executive information system.

His emerging interest is in examining the impact of information technology upon work relationships in organizations and upon society and culture at large.

Publications:


Application Development

Application development is concerned with the translation of information systems requirements into a working system that satisfies the requirements.

Professor Emery's recent research has focused on the problem of developing application software. The conventional software development process employing a multi-phased structured design process and writing custom programs in a procedural language has led to frequent budget and schedule overruns and systems that often do not meet the changing needs of users.

A variety of new approaches to application development appear to offer substantial potential for improving the process. Included are the use of application packages, templates, reusable objects and components, middleware products to integrate components, and 4th generation languages.

Professors Emery and Frew are studying various approaches to integrating and interconnecting applications to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide information management support. The intent is to develop real applications for real use at NPS, because the school is viewed as a microcosm of DoN/DoD's information environment. A wide spectrum of technical approaches is being used, including the implementation of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products for client/server use of work-group, work-flow products for document management and fourth generation (4GL) application development tools. The strategy is to use DoD processes and standards in building interoperable applications in order to develop a model for wider use within DoD/DoN.

Publications:


NETWORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed Systems and Computer Networks

A paradigm has been developed for the system and software design of distributed systems, with application to large scale computer networks consisting of local area networks interconnected by a wide area network.

Professor Schneidewind has developed a paradigm for the system and software design of distributed systems with application to the Navy's Stock Point Logistics Integrated Communications Environment (SPLICE), which is a distributed computer network for providing high speed logistics transaction processing to support the Navy's world-wide material requirements. The system consists of local computer networks and an interconnecting wide area network, the Defense Data Network.

A number of design principles are offered with particular reference to how they can be applied to the design of distributed systems. The major contribution to the field of distributed systems is an explanation of how to make design decisions about distributed systems in a way that will enhance maintainability and understandability of the software and, at the same time, result in good system performance. An additional objective is to recognize the implications for software quality of various decisions which must be made in the process of specifying a distributed system.

Publications:

Schneidewind, Norman F. Interconnecting Local Networks to Long Networks. IEEE Computer, Vol. 16, No. 9, (September 1983): 15-

Telecommunication Systems

Professor Sridhar is interested in the use of quantitative and qualitative tools for modeling, analysis, design and management of telecommunication systems. Sridhar has developed algorithms for optimally balancing a given workload among processors with preassigned loads, in a distributed computing system. The processors may either have equal or unequal processing rates. The analysis considers the case where perfect load balancing is possible, as well as the case where only approximate load balancing is possible.

His current research focuses on the economic aspects of configuring cellular networks. A model has been developed to determine the system configuration which will maximize the annual expected net revenues. The study includes an analysis of the impact of changes in design parameters on system configuration, the cost of competition, and its implications for the regulatory agency.

Publications:


The Decision and Information Systems Research Center (DISC) was established at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1995. Its research focus is on the design, implementation, and analysis of information systems directed at organizational computing and decision making. The Center currently has 12 associated faculty, representing backgrounds and research interests in decision sciences, software development, networking, and interoperability and integration of information technologies and modeling methodologies. DISC provides a common identity for related research projects as well as various support services. The Center runs an active seminar series drawing speakers from various universities, industry, DoD organizations and research laboratories.

DISC faculty research is sponsored by a broad range of funding agencies, including several in the Department of Defense. Current topics being researched by the Center’s faculty include:

- The use of the internet for sharing decision-oriented information technologies
- Development of multimedia-capable intelligent-tutoring technologies
- Evolutionary computing
- Investigation of new paradigms for developing organizational computing software
- Development of guidelines for the migration to an integrated and interoperable client-server architecture

Further information about the Center is available via the World Wide Web (http://sm.nps.navy.mil/DISC/disc.html), via electronic mail (disc@sm.nps.navy.mil), or by calling the Professor Hemant Bhargava at (408) 656-2264.
MULTIMEDIA RESEARCH LABORATORY

The objective of the effort is to provide a vehicle for conducting interdisciplinary research on instructional technology and in information systems that utilize evolving multimedia technologies. The facility has been in existence since 1992 and is used by faculty and students from the Information Systems, Aviation Safety, and Command & Control areas. The laboratory provides multimedia computing facilities for two platforms: MS-DOS/Windows based and UNIX based systems. Currently, we have a network of Sun workstations as well as high-end MS-DOS-based machines.

The faculty and students involved with the laboratory are pursuing research on a variety of topics, much of it in cooperation with different units of the Navy and other services. Principal areas of research include:

- Development of a prototype computer-based system for training on night vision goggles
- Application of Multimedia for Capturing Design Rationale
- Design and Implementation of an Expert Advisor for Maintenance of the Mark-92 Fire Control System
- Development of Interactive Education Media

For further information, contact Professor Sengupta, Director of the Multimedia Research Laboratory at Phone: (408) 656-3212 or via E-mail: kishore@nps.navy.mil
SOFTWARE METRICS RESEARCH CENTER

Increasingly, DoD is requiring the use of metrics in software development contracts. Although there have been significant achievements in this area, there exists gaps in theory and practice. Among these are validation methodologies, process methodologies, databases, metrics tools, and cost analyses. The Software Metrics Research Center was established in response to DoD needs to address these issues. Here students and faculty tackle such issues as integration of metrics methodology into the software life-cycle process, development of metrics tools, and general metrics research. Current research projects include:

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- A Software Reliability Model with Optimal Selection of Failure Data

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